

Resignation expected in next few days

# Ridley loses support of Tory MPs

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

NICHOLAS Ridley is expected to resign from the cabinet within the next few days after losing the support of Conservative MPs over his attack on the Germans. Nearly two-thirds of MPs canvassed by the whips are believed to have indicated that he should go.

The trade and industry secretary, who was flying to London last night after a visit to Hungary, was being left by Margaret Thatcher with the dignity of making his own decision about his future. Mrs Thatcher did not want to be forced into sacking one of her closest soulmates in the cabinet.

A red warning light on the flightdeck of a British Airways jet added to Mr Ridley's problems yesterday by stranding him in Budapest for an extra four hours. The outward flight to Budapest had to turn back to Heathrow with a suspected problem in its hydraulic systems. A stand-by jet took off for Budapest shortly after the first aircraft returned to Heathrow.

Friends said that Mr Ridley, who was due to meet close colleagues after arriving at Heathrow, would need time to digest the strength of the storm that had broken in his absence before making up his mind. They believed, however, that if he felt the prime minister would be helped by his departure then he would go.

There is little doubt among Conservative MPs and ministers that, after hearing the state of opinion in the parliamentary party, Mrs Thatcher expects him to do so. Senior ministers see resignation as the only way of repairing the damage to Britain's interests in Europe caused by Mr Ridley's remarks in an interview with *The Spectator* magazine. In the Foreign Office the belief was that the longer Mr Ridley stayed the harder it would be to mend the damage.

An officer of the Tory 1922 committee, Sir Marcus Fox, revealed yesterday that Tim Renton, the government chief whip, had been advised that the tide of Tory opinion was

strongly against Mr Ridley. Mrs Thatcher was informed of that verdict.

Mr Ridley's departure is expected at the weekend or early on Monday. There is an EC meeting involving trade ministers on Tuesday and the Department of Trade and Industry faces questions in the Commons on Wednesday. If Mr Ridley did not go this weekend there would be pressure for a personal statement in the Commons on Monday.

A resignation from Mr Ridley would be accompanied by the announcement of his successor and any other consequential changes in the cabinet, it emerged last night.

Michael Howard, Tom King, John Wakeham and Cecil Parkinson are among the ministers mentioned as candidates to replace him, with the newcomer to the cabinet likely to come from a group including William Waldegrave, David Mellor and John Patten on the left, and Michael Portillo, Francis Maude and Peter Lilley on the right.

Yesterday in Budapest, a sombre-looking Mr Ridley spent his time meeting Hungarian officials and avoiding the questions of journalists before returning to the ambassador's residence to await the hope that it would go away.

Friends of Mr Ridley have accepted reluctantly that his continuation in office would make life difficult for John Major, although they cling to the hope that weekend opinion polls on the German question might show strong backing for his stance.

Mr Ridley swiftly withdrew his offending remarks, in which he accused Germany of wanting to take over the whole of Europe, on Thursday.

Last night, the trade and industry department revealed that Mr Ridley's visit to Hungary, an official visit intended to forge new trade links with the newly liberated Eastern Bloc country, had been plagued by problems from the beginning.

Officials had lined up meetings with government members including the minister of interior operations, the minister of industry and commerce and the minister of transport and communications. A spokesman said, however, that an emergency cabinet meeting had thrown doubt on the programme.

Gordon Brown, the shadow industry secretary, attacked the prime minister last night for failing to discipline Mr Ridley. "By refusing to sack Mr Ridley or even call him back, carpet him, or just see him to demand an explana-

tion, and by letting it be known that the decision about his future rests entirely in his own hands, Mrs Thatcher is guilty of a dismal failure of leadership," he said.

"With this indecision following on top of the Ridley insults, her inaction today signifies an astonishing abdication of responsibility that will make Britain the subject of, at best, ridicule, and at worst, hostility throughout Europe".

Mrs Thatcher had a short meeting at the Commons yesterday with Tim Renton, the government chief whip who was briefed on Thursday night by officers of the 1922 Committee about the views of MPs.

Sir Marcus Fox, vice-chairman of the committee, said yesterday that "the climate from Mr Ridley's point of view" was very bad. He expected that "an important statement will be made very shortly".

Asked when that would be, he replied: "I do not care when it is — today, next week or in the recess. Some action will be taken." The party was unusually agitated about Mr Ridley's remarks. It was far too important to be left in the delayed night.

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"He went to meet the new ministers in the new government there, but whether he met the people he was meant to or not, we don't yet know."

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European reaction, page 3  
Giant of Europe, page 12  
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ALBANIANS aboard the Espresso Grecia, one of the four ferries which yesterday carried thousands of refugees from Darfur, cheering their first sight of the Italian Adriatic port of Brindisi. The Albanians had been camped out in Tirana's Western embassies for two weeks, having stormed the gates and scaled the walls in their efforts to leave Europe's last Stalinist state. Some of yesterday's ar-

ivals in Brindisi were taken by train to West Germany. Others flew back across the Adriatic to Athens, where one of them, Eardall Didi, said: "We have escaped from the wolf's mouth." Mr Didi, who had been sought by the notorious Sigurimi security police, added that "if the Albanian regime becomes isolated from the international community, it will immediately collapse like a house of cards." The

refugees arriving at Brindisi were nearly all short and thin because of chronic malnutrition. Their hair and beards were long and their teeth generally rotten. The children looked anaemic but suntanned, the result, several said, of doing an obligatory day's farming each week.

Braced for revolution, page 8  
First taste of freedom, page 28

## England's defeat set TV record

By JOHN GOODBODY

NEARLY half the population watched the England v West Germany World Cup semi-final, the biggest audience yet recorded on British television. Official figures released yesterday show that 25.2 million people saw the match, which West Germany won in a penalty shoot-out, on Wednesday, July 4.

The BBC audience was 16.69 million, and ITV's 8.25 million. A BBC spokesman said that eight of the nine biggest audience figures for the World Cup were on the BBC. The BBC and ITV alternated the matches in the preliminary rounds but showed the same England matches in the later stages.

The next highest viewing figures were for England v Cameroon (23.7 million) and West Germany v Argentina (19.45 million).

Full report, page 29

## Ulster talks deadlock over Dublin's role

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THERE were further signs yesterday that the government's initiative on Northern Ireland was in serious difficulty after seven hours of ministerial talks with the Irish government failed to break the deadlock on Dublin's involvement.

Speaking after his day-long meeting with Gerard Collins, the Irish foreign minister, at the Northern Ireland Office in London, Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, indicated both sides were coming close to knowing once and for all if further progress could be made.

As if anticipating a complete collapse, Mr Brooke said it was a "matter of relief" to him that he had always described the chances for inter-party talks as a possibility rather than a probability.

He added: "Inevitably, we are moving nearer to the point of knowing whether we have got something which is a fundamental problem for everybody."

Mr Brooke emphasised that all the parties to the initiative must be in agreement at every stage if the talks were to have any chance of success.

"Unless everybody is at ease with the basis with which we go into the talks, then I think there is the possibility of difficulties thereafter," he said.

Mr Collins, like his British counterpart, expressed alternating optimism and caution about the future. He described the differences which continue to divide them as a "log jam" which they had

## Drivers' premiums up 16% as thefts rise

By KEVIN EASON

MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

INSURANCE premiums for Britain's 20 million motorists will rise by 16 per cent this year as drivers pay the price of rising crime. Insurance companies are pressing manufacturers to improve the security of their vehicles as losses from thefts increase to more than £300 million a year.

The Association of British Insurers said yesterday that many manufacturers had a poor record of developing security systems. The organisation also criticised motorists who failed to lock their vehicles or to discourage thieves by installing alarms.

Insurers may decide to identify models with the worst security records to keep future premiums down. Mike Jones, chief executive of the insurers' association, said that the industry had no immediate plans for identifying poor performance on security, but did not rule out the idea.

In future, companies may hold prices down for motorists who buy cars with good security records or fit alarms or other devices to their vehicles, Mr Jones said.

"Motorists may well have to pay higher insurance premiums for cars where the manufacturers do not do enough to improve car security. We will be stepping up our efforts to encourage motorists to take better care of their cars and we will be telling them the consequences in higher premiums if our message is ignored."

Mr Collins is expected also to consult SDLP leaders while Mr Brooke will discuss with unionists leaders a number of suggestions put forward by Mr Collins aimed at breaking the deadlock.

Mr Collins, like his British counterpart, expressed alternating optimism and caution about the future. He described the differences which continue to divide them as a "log jam" which they had

cleared than ever before that he still intends to make a full statement announcing a date for the start of formal talks before the end of this parliamentary session on July 26, and that if he fails to meet that deadline, the venture would be in deep — probably terminal — decline.

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## WEEKEND LIVING

### Making homes out of barns

Barns are part of the classic farmyard scenery. Is it right that they should be converted into homes? Yvonne Thomas conducts the debate: Page 17

### Spinning in the wind

Weather vanes, popular in Victorian times, are back in vogue. Nicole Swenley reports from the rooftop: Page 19

### SPORT



### Sock it to them

This will be a familiar sight during the Open golf championship next week when Payne Stewart, wearing sponsored socks, attempts to win at St Andrews: Page 31

### My plan for Silverstone

Nigel Mansell explains how he will drive the Silverstone circuit as he races for his first grand prix win of the season: Page 32

### WEEKEND MONEY

#### Take account of credit

Holidaymakers using credit cards have been warned to keep a record of what they spend: Page 52

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FROM THE BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
OF THE CHARM SCHOOL

GRAFTON BOOKS

A QUARTER-inch cut in the finger which fretted such classics as *Little Red Rooster* and *Honky Tonk Women* is rapidly becoming the most catastrophic minor injury in the history of popular music. For the second time in a week the Rolling Stones were forced yesterday to postpone a concert because of the septic state of their lead guitarist's left hand.

Many of the expected capacity audience of 72,000 had already gathered outside the gates of Wembley Stadium yesterday afternoon, an auspicious Friday the Thirteenth, when it was announced there would be no performance. Keith Richards was declared by his doctor unit to play the demanding two-hour set for which fans had paid £22.50 a ticket to marvel at the longevity of one of the ancient monuments of British rock.

On Wednesday night the Richards

finger, the third on his left hand, forced the band to abandon their planned appearance at Cardiff Arms Park, to the dismay of 30,000 fans. Since then the finger, cut on a guitar string during a tuning-up session, has not improved sufficiently to allow play to resume, and the infection has spread to the lower part of the hand. Dr Michael Paul, the guitarist's doctor, said yesterday however, that the condition was now improving rapidly under antibiotics.

Richards spent the past three days with his left hand heavily bandaged, ruling out any possibility of his playing even the simplest riffs. He has been told that to use the hand now might damage his playing ability for ever, which in view of the Stones' apparent indestructibility he clearly does not wish to do.

If medical science does not work its magic, one disappointed Stones *aficionado* will be the Princess of Wales, who

plans to be among the audience at tonight's repeat concert, which it was hoped yesterday would still go ahead. Ticket holders for last night's non-event were asked to hold on to them, as an additional appearance would be staged at a date to be announced. The postponed Cardiff concert has been hastily rearranged for Monday.

Estimates of the cost of postponing such a concert vary wildly. The promoters safeguard themselves by not giving people their money back; the cut finger will be felt much more keenly by traders who make rich pickings at the gates.

There is, apparently, no question of a substitute as Richards is too well-known. Mick Jagger is more fortunate. It has been disclosed that during performances his 47-year-old voice receives the support of an offstage backing singer to disguise the inevitable range reduction accompanying advancing age.

★★★★★

Nicholas Ridley and the Spectator furore

# Candidates line up for elephants' graveyard

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

MARGARET Thatcher faces a conundrum in reshuffling her cabinet on the expected departure of Nicholas Ridley from the Department of Trade and Industry, a department which has taken over in recent years as the elephants' graveyard of politics.

She will be losing a closely whose going will alarm the Tory right. Yet the three most obvious candidates lined up for promotion to the cabinet are William Waldegrave, who was considered closely for promotion when Michael Howard was given the employment department in January, and the two Home Office ministers John Patten and David Mellor, who has scored a major success with the Broadcasting Bill. All three incline to the left of any Tory median line.

Some intriguing permutations were therefore being discussed among MPs yesterday. One suggestion was that Mrs Thatcher could switch Tom King from de-



King: could be switched from defence ministry



Wakeham: back in prime minister's inner circle



Howard: inclines to the left of Tory median line

ference to the DTI and elevate in his place his minister of state, Alan Clark, a maverick right-winger who is no lover of Brussels and whose advancement would placate the Conservative Bruges Groupers and anti-EC federalists.

Mr King has been a minister-of-all-work under Mrs Thatcher, serving in the cabinet at environment, transport, and Northern Ireland before his present post. He would hardly be surprised by another move. Mr Clark has been working closely with the prime minister on the possible shape of defence cuts constituting the "peace dividend".

After the experience with Mr Ridley, however, Mrs Thatcher is likely to think twice about elevating Mr Clark. A highly intelligent and individual politician who is one of her personal favourites, he is also accident-prone, having landed himself in race relations trouble, for example, with remarks about "Bongo, Bongo land". His lack of

discretion has excluded him from the cabinet so far and it would be a surprise if Mrs Thatcher were to relent in what may well be a pre-election year.

The most talented of the younger right-wingers are Francis Maude (Foreign Office), Peter Lilley (Treasury) and Michael Portillo. Mr Portillo has only just been given the task of overseeing the revisions of the poll tax as local government minister,

however, and could scarcely be moved again so soon. Two other combinations suggested are that Michael Howard could be switched from employment to the DTI, a department he knows well after pushing through the Financial Services Act as a junior minister there. Mr Maude could then be given charge of employment.

The other notion canvassed yesterday was that John Wakeham, now back in the

prime minister's inner circle, could be switched from energy to the DTI, with Mr Lilley, like Mr Maude a member of the radical "No Turning Back" group, as his replacement. Either plan would leave Messrs Waldegrave, Mellor and Patten with considerable reason to feel hard done by.

Another intriguing suggestion yesterday was that any reshuffle consequent upon Mr Ridley's departure would be a

test of Cecil Parkinson's remaining credit with the prime minister. Tipped at the start of this parliament as a potential chancellor and known as a firm Thatcher loyalist, he has faced a series of setbacks lately and failed to secure a major post in her key reshuffles. A select committee report criticised his role in electricity privatisation with unparalleled severity and his present transport department has been beset by problems.

Mr Parkinson had a brief spell once before as trade and industry secretary. After he had delivered election victory as party chairman in 1983 he held the position from June until October that year, when revelations about his private life forced him to resign from the government. A transfer back to the DTI at this stage would show that under Mrs Thatcher, there was life in Mr Parkinson's career yet.

Although they sometimes go on to other jobs, the ministers who head the DTI do not seem to prosper long term under Mrs Thatcher. In

Daniel Johnson, page 12

Letters, page 13

Regrets in shires but the message is clear

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

INFLUENTIAL local Conservatives from the shires and spires of the Tory heartland yesterday dismissed Nicholas Ridley as an upper-class bumbler at best and a dangerous liability at worst.

As attitudes to the trade secretary's indiscretions hardened few words were said on his behalf, although the least vindictive indicated that his withdrawal and apology should be accepted even though it was felt he should clear his desk and go.

John Warren, chairman of Eastleigh Conservative association in Hampshire, said: "His words have caused grave embarrassment to Great Britain and to the party. It's not for me to put the mockers on him, but I think it is right he should have a long hard look at his future. It is unfortunate he should have made his remarks at a time when the government is trying to knit closer ties with Europe. Nothing but harm has been done."

Alexandra Wallace, agent for Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, MP for Edinburgh West, said: "There's been among the Jewish community here reservations about the amalgamation of the two Germans because that might be viewed as a possible threat. But if you boil down what Mr Ridley said then it's plain he should have been a bit more diplomatic. What you think and what you say must sometimes be two different things. To foster better relations with Europe you have to be a bit cautious."

It would be wrong to assume, however, that Mr Ridley's interview has left the Tories in the shires as agitated as their urban cousins at Westminster.

At Alton, in east Hampshire, where Michael Mates is the MP, Conservative association officials were too preoccupied with helping a delivery man find his way to this weekend's country fair to have time to comment.

Arthur Moss, agent to Michael Jopling, MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale and a former chief whip, said he was more likely to be flooded with complaints from constituents about low-flying aircraft than high-flying ministers.

He added: "One man has rung to dismiss Mr Ridley as a bumbler and another to say he has gone overboard. I just think ministers of the Crown are subject to the constraints of office. Having in mind the prime minister had some success at the recent summit meeting I think Mr Ridley has weakened the kudos accruing to her."

Sheila Blaby, agent to David Sunberg, MP for Bury South, said: "We are trying to make people feel European and Mr Ridley has made it more difficult for us. It's difficult to apologise for what someone else has done."

Frances Mowatt, agent to Sir Bernard Braine, MP for Castle Point and Father of the House, added: "All those I have spoken to say they fear Mr Ridley should go."

## Political case strengthens for speeding ERM entry

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

NICHOLAS Ridley's interview with *The Spectator* may, ironically, have helped to speed British entry into the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system, a move he would dearly like to have scuttled altogether.

His departure from office, fully expected by many Conservative MPs, will remove from the cabinet the doughtiest opponent of ERM and none of the permutations suggested for a reshuffle involves bringing in an anti-marketeer.

Those on the fringe of the cabinet, such as William Waldegrave, David Mellor and John Patten, are all Europhiles. Only if the more junior Francis Maude were elevated would the Eurosceptics take any comfort.

Some Conservative MPs were even suggesting yesterday that John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, would be able to make a political case for ERM entry earlier than had been planned, to help to undo the harm done to Britain's standing in Europe by his anti-German outburst.

Inside the Foreign Office and the Treasury, however, the view was that the timing of ERM entry would still be determined by the economic arguments, which had not changed as a result of Mr Ridley's interview, and by the need to position Britain for the discussions on economic and monetary union leading up to the inter-governmental conference in December.

While some eager Tory Europeans were suggesting



Mr Ridley refusing to answer reporters' questions on his remarks about Germany as he ended his visit to Budapest yesterday

that the enforced departure of Mr Ridley might produce a net bonus for Britain by enhancing the country's European credentials, the Foreign Office was talking strictly in terms of damage limitation. Elsewhere in Whitehall, however, there was puzzlement at Mr Ridley's tactics. "Attacking Europe and ending up outside the cabinet in consequence is a pretty clear statement," one official said.

The Foreign Office was being careful not to be seen pushing for Mr Ridley's departure, not wanting to assist in the creation of a martyr to the anti-market cause. There was no doubt, however, of the departmental view that the sooner Mr Ridley went the simpler would be the task of damage limitation.

George Walden, the Tory MP for Buckingham and a former diplomat, said yesterday that it would be difficult to see how Mr Hurd could hope to achieve his diplomatic objectives so easily if Mr Ridley stayed on.

"Mr Ridley has not stood up for Britain. He has put us in a humiliating position. We now have to crawl around apologising to everyone. You don't make the mark any weaker by spitting in the eye of the Germans." If Britain were seen by the Continent as indulging in "rancid anti-Germanism" less and less notice would be taken of British representatives, he said.

Peter Temple-Morris, vice-chairman of the Conservative backbench foreign affairs

committee, said that Mr Ridley had to step down in the interests of the prime minister. "He is an honourable man, he will go."

Mr Ridley has created problems for others besides the Foreign Office. Ministers in all departments are now involved in regular meetings with their EC counterparts, some travelling to Brussels almost weekly. The difficulty they face is that Mr Ridley is known to be one of the prime minister's ideological soul-mates.

The theme he developed in his recent speech to the Bruges Group of a wider European Community embracing the nations of Eastern Europe rather than a deeper inte-

gration of the existing 12, is one that has previously attracted Mrs Thatcher. The two are close on economic questions and colleagues have suspected the existence of a tacit understanding between them that he can make free speeches about matters on which her position restricts him.

While Tory MPs say that Mr Ridley's enforced resignation would help to underline the seriousness of British intentions in Europe, it will not altogether ease the party's internal problems on the subject. Mr Ridley's presence in the cabinet has acted as a safety valve for the anti-European diehards, who have believed that while he was

there their reservations were articulated at the top of the party. If he is replaced by a pro-EC voice they might feel the need to draw attention to their cause by noisier means.

While Mr Ridley is not considered to have the energy or the strength to become the leader of an anti-EC faction on the backbenches, his departure could provoke a new bout of internal argument on European questions. The real damage that Mr Ridley has done to the Conservatives is to have produced a gratuitous controversy just when the party's business managers believed they had calmed the party and slowed the political tempo.

Mrs Thatcher decided in December last year to accent-

tuate the positive in her relations with the other members of the EC and has been notably more placatory at the last three meetings of the European Council, one in Strasbourg and two in Dublin. At the Houston economic summit she did not side wholeheartedly with the US on free-trade questions but was careful to act as a link between the EC nations and the US.

Ironically too, she fought alongside Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, on environmental questions, pushing the Americans and others to acknowledge that action must be taken on global warming and climate change before full scientific evidence

was available. Mr Ridley might have been swimming against the current in another way too. While he was complaining about German domination of a unified European monetary system, Mrs Thatcher has said that one snag with moving from the present, Deutschmark-dominated system to a full monetary union is that it may not be what its proponents suggest simply because it will be less popular than Germany.

Instead of a discipline inspired by the deeply ingrained anti-inflationary German traditions, she has said, it will be more subject to politicians of other countries willing to turn a blind eye to a little inflation for temporary political ends.

Political stage, but that his insensitivity shown to them over the years should have been masked from those outside the village for so long. They are highly critical of his refusal to be involved in the village with a population of just over 300.

"We are a living village. Just because it is all roses around the door, Cotswold Stone and drystone walls doesn't mean it is a film set. We are small and need everyone here to play their part and make an effort and Mr Ridley has never done that," Mrs Turton said.

Nonetheless, the setting is a perfect one in which to escape the cacophony of London, and a short distance away is the Severn where Mr Ridley can enjoy the perfect solitude of his favourite hobby, salmon fishing.

European by prejudice

## Kaufman foresees Tories' fall

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DIFFERENCES over Europe would destroy the Conservative government, Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said last night. The Nicholas Ridley affair was the latest evidence of the malignancy gnawing at the heart of the government.

Speaking in Stockport, Mr Kaufman said it had been the European issue that led Michael Heseltine to walk out of the cabinet, that led Sir Leon Brittan to resign, that led Margaret Thatcher to dismiss Sir Geoffrey Howe as foreign secretary, that forced Nigel Lawson out of the cabinet, and that brought about the Ridley crisis.

Mr Kaufman said the cabinet split over Europe meant that Britain could not pursue a balanced economic or fiscal policy; it had led

to interest rates. "The split in the cabinet over Europe means that the United Kingdom presence at European summit meetings is negative and despised by our European partners, who are deprived of the positive contribution a united British cabinet could make. The Ridley outburst became a crisis for the government because it shows how the split over Europe is preventing the foreign secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer being taken seriously in community policy-making.

"When Ridley insulted the Germans, the French and the Irish he was voicing the same prejudice as the prime minister did in her diet of Brussels Euro-election posters. Ridley was the ventriloquist's dummy." If you watched the prime minister carefully, it was her lips making the insults, he said.

## Serenity of Cotswolds disturbed by uproar

By LIN JENKINS

THE uproar over Nicholas Ridley's remarks had the party traditionalists jamming the telephone lines at his constituency headquarters yesterday. Pauline Higgs barely had time to sip her cup of coffee as she fielded a succession of calls from Cornwall to the Borders all expressing support for his views and applauding his bluntness.

"Everyone from the Lords to the man in the street has been ringing and I can honestly say not one voice is in dissent. They admire his guts in saying it, but some are sorry he made the retraction," she said. She was the only staff member in the office in Cheltenham as the constituency agent is taking a timely holiday.

His views were echoed by many. The rich farming countryside with its beautiful sandstone villages is home to many retired people and a significant number of those

surgery, but this week there would be none as "he cancelled it because of his travel".

Elsewhere in the constituency of Cirencester and Tewkesbury, in rural Gloucestershire, a very distinctive breed of Tory was revelling in the fuss over a plain-speaking man having echoed their own thoughts.

"Nothing wrong with the man," said Toby Harrison, aged 58, who has sold farm machinery since leaving the army. "It was not so long ago since we were fighting the war. Some people have short memories and like to rush on with things too much."

His views were echoed by many. The rich farming countryside with its beautiful sandstone villages is home to many retired people and a significant number of those

seventies, but I know they for one would vote anything now to try and get him out."

Ironically, those whose objections to the man are most firmly held share many of his views on Europe. "It is funny that so many people in the village actually support what he said, but they really have had enough of his style," she said.

Cathy Turton, aged 45, a teacher and an active member of the village's thriving committees, believed that another decade might prove Mr Ridley right.

"But he really ought to be more diplomatic, after all, that is the skill of the politician. We're quite frankly surprised he has lasted this long, he does like to put his foot in it."

To them, the issue is not

merely Mr Ridley's performance on the international

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direct to your door. See The Times on Monday for details.

MARGARET Thatcher spent yesterday afternoon at a fair, and the only thing that was "temperamental" as she toured the marques of Finchley Carnival was the blazing sun.

The prime minister was the model of discretion, ignoring repeated questions from journalists about the future of Nicholas Ridley as she mingled with her constituents, watching a display of Scottish dancing and buying an umbrella, two tea towels, and raffle tickets.

She greeted mothers outside the baby show tent and a short ride in a pony cart took her to the main podium, where she watched Scottish pipers perform and chatted to the

mayor of Barnet, Roy Schut. A note of mischievous comedy broke through when a circus theatre band, mindful of Mr Ridley's comments, played *Deutschland Uber Alles* on violin and trombone.

Mrs Thatcher toured the stalls with unwavering froideur, trailed by an unheeded array of journalists as the temperature rose above 80°.

Her constituents, gathered in Victoria Park, were more ready to express a colourful mix of views about Mr Ridley's outspoken interview. Eileen McAlister, a Thatcher supporter

managing the National Trust stall, said: "He ought to be more tactful. It's a pity, because he's got great potential."

What mess it up like that?" Arthur Collet, waiting for the flying owl display, thought Mr Ridley should resign. "I reckon he should get his cards. It's either him or her."

Stephen Cooper, an amateur dramatics and art stall, thought his views struck a popular chord. "A lot of people have been waiting for someone to say something like that for a very long time. But it's an amazing mistake for a cabinet minister. If we don't want a third world war, do we?"

For all we know, Mrs Thatcher thinks the same as him but doesn't voice it.

Regrets in  
shires but the  
message is clear

## The Ridley furore

# German press reacts with outrage over prejudices and fears

From GILBERT STEICHEN IN BONN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE West German press yesterday reacted with universal outrage to Nicholas Ridley's comments about Germany's alleged designs for an economic take-over of Europe.

The mass circulation *Blatt* had a front page banner headline saying: "Maggie's Minister Compares Kohl to Hitler - What a Friend!"

*Süddeutsche Zeitung*, of Munich, said that Margaret Thatcher would be forced to dismiss the minister. "Mr Ridley's comments cannot be simply dismissed as the extreme views of a 'little Englishman'. Influential Conservatives have already demanded his resignation. Downing Street, irritated by the enormous public reaction, ordered him to disavow the remarks - as if that could change the fact that he uttered them. Mrs Thatcher quickly distanced herself ... But distancing alone is not enough because Ridley was too often viewed as the mouthpiece of his boss. Mrs Thatcher is going to have to dispatch him."

The conservative *Die Welt* wondered how Mr Ridley could face his European counterparts after the remarks. "With what face - he has already lost his own - will Mr Ridley appear at the bargaining table with politicians in Bonn after remarks such as 'German swindle and outrages about a German plot to take over all of Europe'?"

The newspaper said that outraged voices were not enough. "The tone makes the

music and there is a method to his outburst. He has given new meaning to the British saying 'The wogs begin in Calais'."

*General-Anzeiger*, of Bonn, noted: "Mr Ridley's word will in future have much less value, if it ever carried weight. His outburst and macabre choice of words clearly exposed the raw nerve in London's Downing Street."

The liberal *Frankfurter Rundschau* wrote that the remarks could not be simply dismissed as isolated rantings.

"The feelings, the fears and the prejudices that came out of the minister are feelings, fears and prejudices that are shared by many of his countrymen. The island has yet to fully come to terms with the impending enlargement of the federal republic, the growing German self-assurance and radicalism from both the right and the left."

In Belgium, the press reviled in Europe's favourite caricature of the haughty Englishman but also detected more serious signs of British historical isolationism towards Europe. *La Libre Belgique* accused Mr Ridley of dragging Bonn, Paris and Brussels through the mud."

*Le Soir* called him "a hardened nationalist and anti-European", caricaturing him as a "gentleman-farmer from the shires, for whom Europe seems as distant as New Zealand". His closeness to Mrs Thatcher was a source of serious concern, however.

The authoritative Flemish daily *De Standaard* said Mr Ridley's remarks were "an annoying traffic accident on the road to Europe". The minister belonged to a "picture-book from the Victorian era", but his minority views had shown how a concern for sovereignty could find a dangerous expression in anti-German emotion.

In The Netherlands the press was disturbed by Mr Ridley's ideological proximity to the prime minister. *De Volkskrant*, of the centre-left, said it believed that "perhaps this all had to be said in the open at some point, and maybe it is what Mrs Thatcher was thinking herself".

In Spain, *El País* said the remarks highlighted above all deep divisions in the cabinet over European policy. These could only undermine the more conciliatory efforts towards the European question of his colleagues Douglas Hurd and John Major. More disturbingly, Mr Ridley's outburst reflected "the profound mistrust - a mixture of hatred, envy and fear - that the British harbour towards the Germans".

In Italy, papers did not take the remarks as serious expressions of the British government's position, but some suggested that they reflected the repressed common fears of certain members of the Conservative party. The authoritative Turin daily *La Stampa* wrote that "the anti-European fringe within the British government and the financial and political establishment has come out into the open with a mad attack by the minister of industry". It points out that "Ridley among the ministers, is the one ideologically closest to the premier".

The Milan daily *Corriere Della Sera*, under a heading reading "This Germany reminds me of Hitler", described Mr Ridley's interview as "astounding and brutally frank, in total contempt of the most elementary diplomacy".

In France, *Le Monde* said the minister's outburst simply demonstrated that "it is possible to be an aristocrat without ever becoming a gentleman", and it wondered whether Mrs Thatcher secretly shared the "fears and prejudices" expressed by her trusted collaborator.



Speaking for England  
Face of controversy: the cover of the magazine that launched a storm of European anger and protest

## Anglo German group keeps its counsel

By JOHN YOUNG

SIR Frank Roberts, president of the Anglo German Association and a former British ambassador in Bonn, yesterday described Mr Ridley's remarks as most regrettable, but thought it unlikely that the association would want to make any further comment.

"We have not had any demands from our members to make a statement," he said. "We don't sit in judgement. We are satisfied that the prime minister has said everything that needs to be said in disowning Mr Ridley's remarks. He has done untold damage and must now resign," he said.

Mr Monaghan is chairman of the Conservative association in Tewkesbury, near Tewkesbury, and is also managing director of the British division of a German company based in the town.

## European Community united by prejudice and xenophobia

From PETER GUILFORD, BRUSSELS

ALTHOUGH Britain now stands in the dock accused of racism at a ministerial level, as a result of Nicholas Ridley's remarks, a European Community survey shows that the British are by no means the most xenophobic people in Europe.

The West Germans and the Belgians have the greatest difficulties living with the presence of foreigners, according to an EC census. *Racism, xenophobia and intolerance*, published last November.

Xenophobia in Belgium and West Germany is levelled primarily at other Europeans. The British, the Danes, the French and the Dutch however think more of non-Europeans, notably immigrants from former colonies.

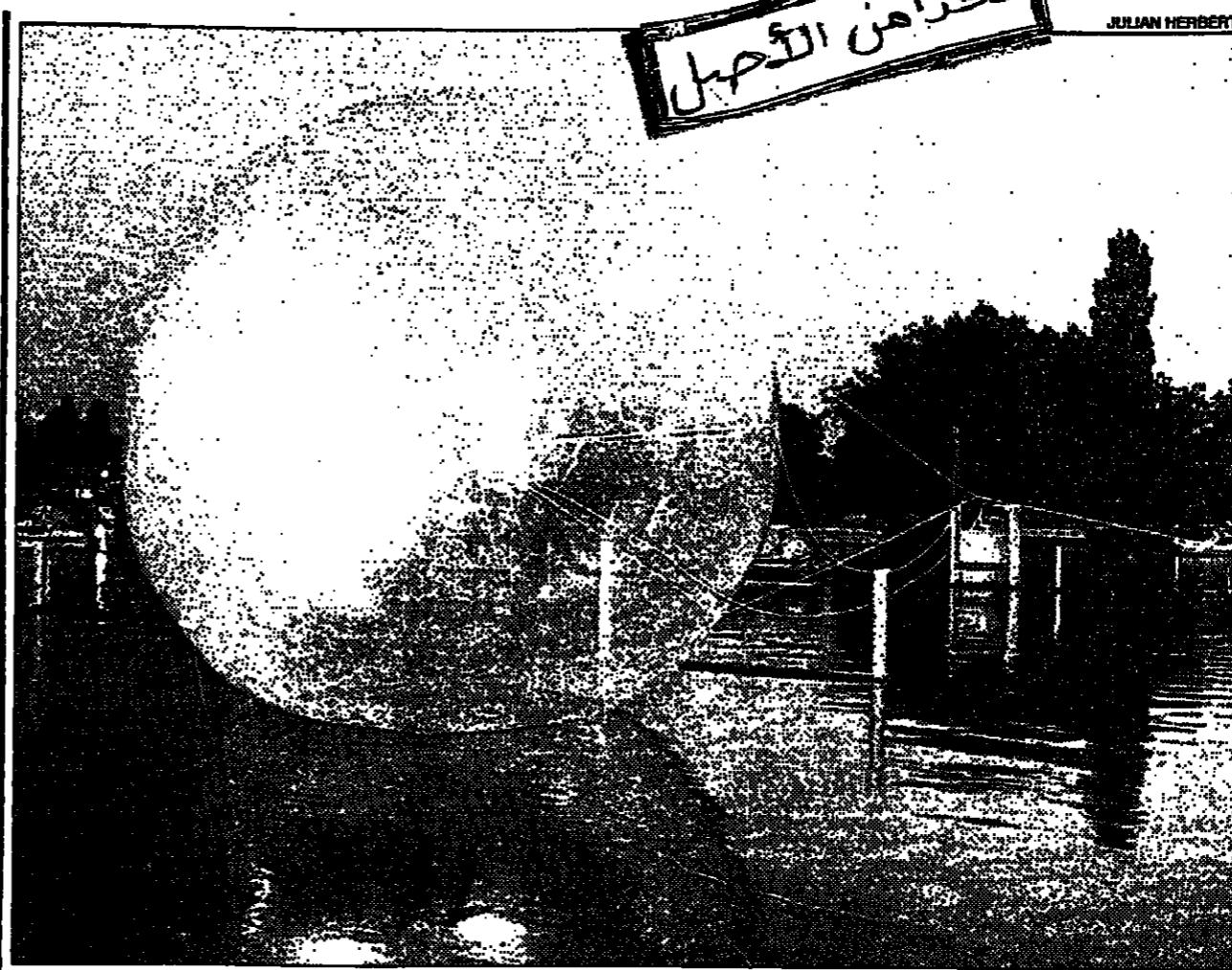
No single country is exonerated by the findings of the

report, which concludes that "one European in three believes there are too many people of another nationality or race in his country". Dislike of the presence of foreigners is directly linked to their sense of national pride, the survey says. Those who do not meet foreigners in their jobs are just as intolerant towards them as those who do. One in three EC citizens have regular contact with foreigners.

A quarter of all Britons surveyed believe that foreign children lower the standards of education and 30 per cent of West Germans share the same views, as do 59 per cent of Spaniards. Some 26 per cent of Britons believe foreigners exploit social security benefits, 14 per cent are baffled by their customs, 29 per cent believe they boost unemployment and 41 per cent see them as a cause of delinquency. On marriage 43 per cent of the British population believe a liaison with a foreigner will fail, 42 per cent are wary of them as neighbours and 27 per cent dislike their effect on property prices.

The figures are higher in every case for Spain, Portugal, The Netherlands and Luxembourg, while the percentages are equal or greater in all cases but one for West Germany, France and Ireland. Denmark is the only one with a consistently cleaner record.

While one in two Europeans believe foreigners are a positive influence in their country, most Britons believe their rights should be maintained, not expanded. Italy, however, is the only EC state which favours greater rights.



JULIAN HERBERT

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

### Lawson and Ridley

"At the end of the first day's transcripts I looked and saw nothing of any interest. On the second day I saw the German stuff and I was flabbergasted ... Dominic Lawson talking of his now-notorious interview with Nicholas Ridley. In tomorrow's Sunday Times Lawson is the interviewee as he tells Valerie Grove the story behind the Cabinet minister's candid views which shocked Europe.



Madonna

"Madonna symbolises a revolution in feminist thought ... as the raunchy star brings her *Blonde Ambition* show to London The Sunday Times finds leading feminists surprisingly championing her cause.

Nick Faldo

Also tomorrow, in The Sunday Times Magazine, a profile of Nick Faldo in the week he attempts to regain his Open golf title - plus an Open '90 special supplement with the Sports section.

## A little light music floats over the water

SIMON Desorgher playing his flute inside a 25ft transparent plastic sphere suspended above the Thames at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. His music is part of the town's festival of arts and music, which ends tonight.

The sphere, about the size of a small house, was made by two artists, Peter Jones and Lynne Dickens, and is suspended on cables 12ft above



## Genetic breakthrough

## Scientists find clue to nervous disease

By THOMAS PRENTICE, SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

RESEARCHERS have identified the gene believed to be responsible for a form of neurofibromatosis, an incurable disease of the central nervous system which affects about 20,000 people in Britain.

The disease, which raises hopes of diagnostic tests and new treatments, was described yesterday as the most important advance for years in the control of the disorder. The findings about the condition, also known as NF1 and Von Recklinghausen's disease, were published in two journals yesterday.

American scientists led by Francis Collins, professor of internal medicine and human genetics at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Michigan University, reported in the *Science* journal that children of parents with the defective gene stand a 50 per cent chance of developing the disease.

search, said yesterday that the discovery was of huge importance. John Blackwell, the association's general secretary, said: "It opens the way to finding a way to treat the disease itself rather than the symptoms."

Dr Alison Colley, a research registrar at the neurofibromatosis treatment clinic at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, said: "The disease has a baffling variety of symptoms. The gene research should tell us why some people are more severely affected than others, and may help us to detect the more

serious problems at an earlier stage, allowing us to offer better treatment."

• Doctors at Tennessee University have successfully carried out a form of gene transfer therapy on a boy suffering from muscular dystrophy, an inherited disorder which affects one in 3,000 males.

Dr Peter Law and colleagues report in *The Lancet* today that the technique offers a safe and effective way of alleviating the condition, which is carried by women but affects only males.

## Napley is accused of fabricating evidence

THE eminent solicitor Sir David Napley was accused in the Guiness fraud trial yesterday of fabricating evidence.

The former president of the Law Society said he would report the allegation, made by John Chadwick, QC, for the prosecution, to the Bar Council, the barristers' governing body. Sir David was told he had tried to mislead solicitors acting for the prosecution's prime witness. He retorted that the suggestion was not "warranted or sensible".

Referring to Olivier Roux, Guiness's former finance director, he said the suggestion was based on nothing more than the "uncorroborated evidence of a self-confessed liar". He added: "If anyone wants to fabricate something, it would be quite

ridiculous to put it in a letter to Mr Roux's own solicitor which, as far as we knew, would never again have seen the light of day."

Sir David had been called back for further questioning at Southwark Crown Court, where Ernest Saunders, former Guiness chairman and chief executive, Gerald Ronson, head of Heron International, Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, and Sir Jack Lyons, a financier, deny 24 counts, including theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act.

Sir David, the third witness to give evidence for Mr Saunders, had spent three days in the witness box, a large part of it being cross-examined by Mr Chadwick. The trial continues on Monday.

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# Examiner is dismissed for wrong grades

By TOM GILES

A GCSE examiner has been dismissed after his board admitted that ten pupils from a West Country school had been wrongly downgraded in their examinations, it was disclosed yesterday.

The children, from Churchill School in Avon, received poorer results than expected in GCSE business studies papers last June. Although the school asked the Southern Examining Group to investigate in September, the pupils' grades remained unchanged for nine months because of examiners' delays.

A report issued by the group last December at the school's request said there was no need to re-mark the business studies papers of 21 pupils. The group had already improved the grades of two candidates at Churchill after parents made an independent request for their papers to be re-marked.

According to Richard Pallant, the school's headmaster, the group agreed several weeks later to re-mark the 21 examination papers. Despite Mr Pallant's repeated requests for information, the examiners admitted their mistake only in May, when

another eight pupils had their results upgraded. One pupil received a good pass mark after originally being failed.

Mr Pallant said yesterday that he was delighted by the new awards but angry at the attitude of the group. "I am disturbed by how long the examining board took to admit their error. The credibility of these boards is crucial and this sort of affair only serves to undermine it."

"The pupils would have been unable to qualify for courses they wanted and it is fortunate that none has suffered any lasting damage to their career."

Last night, the examining group, based at Guildford, said an apology had been made to the school for the delay. "The original marker of the exams will not be working for us again. The process of re-marking did take far longer than we would have hoped, but the school could have asked for a re-mark in the first place rather than a report."

It said that only 2,800 out of a million GCSE candidates examined by the group last year had requested a re-mark. Of those, 320 had been upgraded.



INVESTIGATORS and fire brigade officers inspect the remains of a helicopter which crashed near Stanley, Co Durham, yesterday, killing the head of Whelan Construction and his wife.

Pat and Margaret Whelan, were travelling in an aircraft piloted by Mr Whelan, aged 49, when the tragedy happened (Ronald Faux writes). Mr Whelan and his wife, aged 40, had just taken off from a field near a restaurant and equestrian complex when the

helicopter hit a power cable and crashed in a ball of fire. A Civil Aviation Authority team yesterday began an investigation.

Witnesses said the rear rotor of the Bell Jet Ranger helicopter clipped a 20,000 volt power cable 30ft above the ground. The cable snapped and broke off the tailfin of the aircraft, which spiralled into a field and exploded.

Superintendent Ned Lawson, of Durham police, said Phil Moyser, a

tractor driver, was working in a field as the helicopter took off. "The occupants of the helicopter were acquainted with the tractor driver and we think that might have had something to do with the accident. Their attention might have been distracted."

Whelan Construction, of Newcastle upon Tyne, had a turnover of £17.5 million up to last December. The company operates on sites throughout the north.

# Lord lieutenant's gamekeeper fined £600 for using pesticide

By CRAIG SETON

A GAMEKEEPER on the estate of the Lord Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester was fined £600 yesterday after a red kite, one of Britain's rarest birds of prey, was poisoned by a banned pesticide.

The red kite was one of 11 released last year in a joint effort by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Nature Conservancy Council to reintroduce the bird into areas where it was once common.

The bird, fitted with a radio transmitter, was found dead on the Gately Park estate, near Leominster, Hereford and Worcester, of Captain Thomas Dunn, the lord lieutenant. It had died from poisoning by Endrin, banned in 1986.

John Noble, aged 41, the gamekeeper, pleaded guilty at Hereford Magistrates' Court two weeks ago to storing Endrin and using it in a bait, a dead pheasant, which resulted in the death of the red kite and a champion gun dog.

Four other gamekeepers and a farmer were fined at the time a total of £8,000 for offences involving the storage and use of the pesticide. Noble's case was adjourned to yesterday, when the second charge was amended to using Endrin. David Matthews, for

the defence, said Noble did not exclude the possibility that the Endrin had killed the red kite and gun dog, but it had not been proved to "criminal standards".

He said Noble was a beginner with only two years' gamekeeping experience after 22 years in the Army and he had not realized the toxicity of the chemical or that it was banned. The court had heard that Endrin had been used to kill foxes that attacked young pheasants being reared for shooting.

Mr Matthews said Noble had disagreement with some people in the course of his duties and believed that an attempt may have been made to sabotage his pheasant shoots by placing poisoned baits. Five gun dogs had been poisoned and one, a labrador named Rosie, which was judged the Midlands top retriever in 1988, had died.

Chris Harrison, for the prosecution, said Noble admitted to police that he used Endrin after 54 pheasants were killed by a fox and that he thought the chemical was an essential part of gamekeeping. Noble was fined £250 for storing Endrin and £350 for using it and ordered to pay £314 costs.

Leading article, page 13

## Traps and poison are the old image

BRITAIN'S gamekeepers fear that the conviction of five of their number for using a banned pesticide to kill predators will revive the outdated image that they are employed solely to protect game for shooting by rich landowners (Craig Seton writes).

Alan Jones, an investigations officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said after the Hereford convictions that some gamekeepers were still using the illegal techniques of 150 years ago, including shooting, trapping and poisons.

However Ian Grindly, head gamekeeper of a Lancashire estate, who is employed by a syndicate that shoots pheasants, partridge and wildfowl, said yesterday that the notion of the ceaseless war of gamekeepers against traditional predators like the fox and birds of prey was dying out as fast as its former practitioners.

Mr Grindly, aged 40, learned his craft on a Suffolk estate where his tutor, a traditional gamekeeper, might well have been prepared to use pole traps to catch owls and gin traps to prevent foxes attacking the landlord's pheasants.

He believes that most gamekeepers today shun illegal methods of destroying predators and should be regarded as modern conservationists, more likely to be equipped with a City and Guilds certificate than ancient country lore.

"Nowadays we are responsible for forestry and woodland, which encourage wildlife and the methods of rearing pheasants for shooting are different," Mr Grindly said. "Vernon control is only important at critical times of the year. We have a live and let

live policy. We only kill when an animal is literally threatening our living. We use a high-velocity rifle to kill foxes."

He believed it was time the public realized the conservation work of gamekeepers, particularly against badger baiters, egg thieves and poachers.

"My boss has to pay for this work. I took over here nine years ago and in the first three years I had my nose broken twice, four or five broken ribs and threatening phone calls. These people, who come out of the cities, left a tailor's dummy at the end of my drive with a knife in it and a warning that that was what would happen to me if I did not stop going out at night to catch them. It was found by my children on their way to school," Mr Grindly said.

The Game Conservancy has 23,000 members, including about 2,500 gamekeepers, about half Britain's number. Charles Nodder, of the conservancy, said most gamekeepers worked for shooting syndicates. There were very few private shoots now.

He said: "All birds of prey are protected. The image of gamekeepers killing birds of prey is one we can't do without. There is nothing like the degree of control of predators that there was in the early part of this century."

Last year the Game Conservancy had been instrumental in an agreement under which employers had to ensure that every employee strictly observed the law, Mr Nodder said. A gamekeeper who used illegal methods could expect to be sacked.

Feather report, page 18

## Peace plan for Nato's energies

By RAY CLANCY

THE Archbishop of Canterbury said yesterday that weapons of war, no longer needed because of widespread disarmament, should be converted for use in time of great disasters.

Dr Robert Runcie told a one-day conference in London on disaster relief that Nato's great energies and engines of defence were uniquely able to perform acts for the good will of mankind and of the environment.

"What is to happen to all these military trucks, radios, reconnaissance aircraft, helicopters, recovery vehicles and their drivers?" he asked. "Should we scrap them or can some be switched to combat the common enemies of mankind, starting with disasters and their prevention but perhaps also the wider range of environmental threats to the survival of our planet?"

Dr Runcie criticised the lack of international co-operation for disaster relief in emergencies such as floods and earthquakes and called for joint action across the world. "It is something we can achieve if we really want to and are willing to start thinking about how to do it," he said.

Last night the Red Cross, the main body responsible for disaster relief, welcomed the idea of more co-operation.

## Return to rates sealed by Labour

By NICHOLAS WOOD

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S return to the rating system has been sealed by the decision of party leaders to reintroduce generous rate rebates as the means of reflecting people's ability to pay.

Labour's economic sub-committee has abandoned proposals to link the party's new property tax to the income tax system, after it was told that it would take five years to engineer. Labour is preparing to unveil a modernised version of the rating system as its alternative to the poll tax. Rateable values will be used as the basis for calculating liability to the new tax rather than capital values.

The leadership is also considering a plan to promise a royal commission on local government structure and financing after a general election victory. It would examine proposals for regional assemblies in England.

The community charge would be quickly swept away by an incoming Labour government and replaced with the revised version of the rates.

Brian Gould, the Opposition's chief environment spokesman, will probably unveil his scheme a few days after Chris Patten, the environment secretary, announces the outcome of the cabinet review of the poll tax next Thursday.

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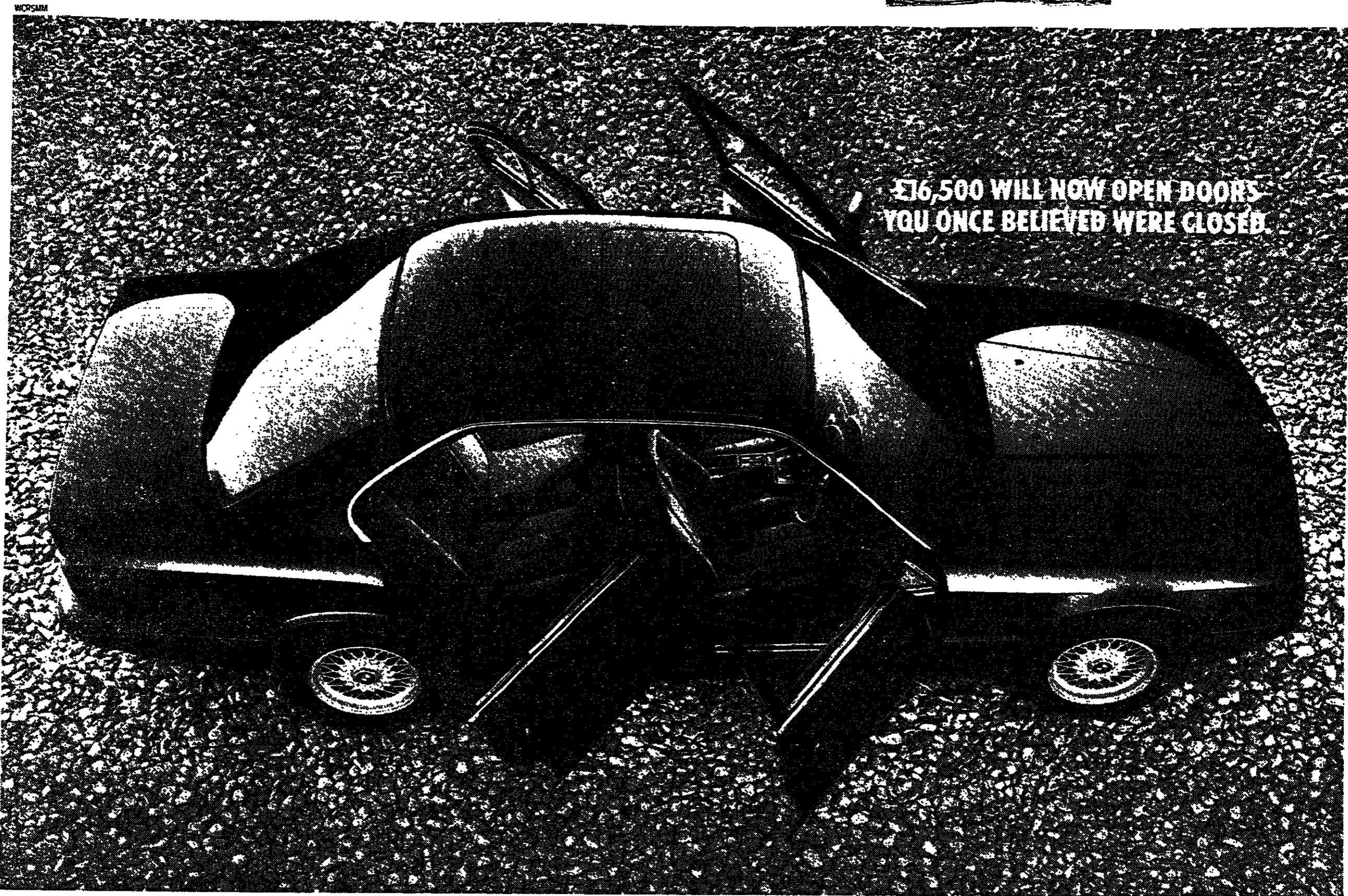
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THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

# Holiday gloom for late bookers as firms are sold out

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

TOUR operators who reduced the number of package holidays on sale this summer by about 25 per cent may have miscalculated, leaving more than a quarter of a million people with nowhere to go and no aircraft available to get them there.

Within the past two weeks a sudden and unexpected surge in bookings, which appears to have coincided with renewed confidence in Britain's economic future, the strengthening pound and even England's comparative success in the World Cup, has virtually cleared travel agents' shelves of remaining holidays between now and the autumn.

Those tour operators who are attempting to meet the demand by chartering additional flights are being turned down by the airlines who were forced months ago to lease 20 jets to other parts of the world not so badly affected by the early slump in holidays. Not that the tour companies appear to be worried about the possible shortage. For it means those holidays which are left will be sold at the full rate compared with the give-away prices late bookers could obtain last year when tour operators arranged far too many and scrambled at the last minute to off-load them almost at any price.

Lunn Poly first rang the alarm bells after a country-wide survey carried out at the end of last month. It disclosed that an anticipated 280,000 potential late booking holiday-makers could face disappointment. The independent survey showed that 1.68 million holiday-makers in

tended to book late but there were only 1.4 million holidays left for sale — and since then the numbers of people seeking holidays have increased.

"It really took off on Thursday of last week," Roger Heape, managing director of Intasun, said. "Our bookings last week were 50 per cent higher than at the same time last year and yet our availability was 25 per cent less. We are, therefore, heading for a situation where a lot of people are not going to be able to get in the near future."

Thomson Holidays reported almost the same pattern. "If anyone wants to go on holiday this August they are not going to get their first choice and may be completely disappointed," a spokesman said. "We had to decide last September how many holidays we would offer this summer and reduced the number from 2.4 million to two million. It appeared that this would be almost exactly right until last week when

there was a sudden rush.

"Everyone seems to have decided at exactly the same time that there is now a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel and with the strengthening pound making foreign holidays generally cheaper they chose to book."

The Association of British Travel Agents said that although there will be many empty beds in Spain, especially because the total number of holidays on sale has dropped, there will be no aircraft available to take potential holiday-makers to them and no crews to man them even if they could be brought back in time.

Even the expensive long-haul holidays which traditionally do not sell well in the height of summer have taken off.

Whether the last few days of real summer and the continuing high inflation rate dulls the appetite for foreign holidays remains to be seen.

**Snapshot: Some of the 1,000 children in the Caribbean musical *Anansi* demonstrate photo-taking abilities at rehearsals. The children come from 47 schools and are under the direction of the theatre company Chickenshed. The show will be performed at the Albert Hall tonight**



## Birmingham airport takes off as Britain's travel hub

THOUSANDS of air travellers are forsaking congested Heathrow and Gatwick, and heading for Birmingham, which is rapidly developing into Britain's travel hub (Harvey Elliott writes).

As plans to build a high-speed rail link from Paddington to Heathrow become bogged down in the parliamentary timetable, business and charter travellers are

heading to the Midlands by road and rail and providing the nine local authorities who own Birmingham airport with windfall profits from the fast-growing main airport in the country.

The airport, which is spending £100 million on additional facilities to cope with the increased demand, is confident of further expansion after a recent agreement giving

additional rights to British and to American airlines to operate transatlantic services. Last year the number of passengers using Birmingham grew by 19 per cent, in spite of a marked drop in charter traffic as airlines throughout Europe flocked to take advantage of the surge in demand.

The sudden popularity of Birmingham as a centre from which to reach most European

cities has provided a boost to the local airline, Birmingham European Airways. The number of passengers on its flights has risen from 50,000 in 1988 to an anticipated 250,000 this year, enabling it to open several new routes including one to Stockholm, which will be started in September. The airline is 40 per cent owned by British Airways, 40 per cent by Maersk, a Danish company, and 20 per cent by private investors.

Birmingham is geographically the centre of England, the coming together of all the motorways and railway lines. Jorn Eriksen, BEA managing director, said: "We have a huge eight million catchment area stretching from Luton in the southeast to Lincoln and Humberside, west to the Welsh border and north to Telford and Stoke."

British Airways is concentrating on developing a 200 million "Eurohub" terminal at Birmingham, which is due to open in a year. It believes that almost two million passengers will be using its services from Birmingham within the next few years.

Edward Taylor, head of marketing at the airport, said:

"With the success of the rapid development of commerce and industry in the region and the growth of the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham has suddenly been recognised as a natural hub for business. Holidaymakers from a vast area of Britain find it far more convenient to travel to us than to any of the existing airports in the southeast."

Turnover last year at the airport was £36 million compared with £29.5 million in the previous financial year, providing £7.8 million of profit to the local authorities compared with £4.5 million the previous year.

The rapid growth of Birmingham is proving particularly galling to BAA, which is becoming increasingly frustrated at the slow progress of its own plans to improve road and rail access to Heathrow.

A report to be published by the Civil Aviation Authority next week is likely to argue for the urgent development of a new runway in the southeast to cope with a predicted doubling of air traffic within the next 10 years. The government is unlikely to want to tackle the problem before the next general election, adding still further to Birmingham's attraction in the run-up to the single European market in 1992.

Airports and airlines upset their passengers more for failing to give information about the cause of delays than do the delays themselves, according to a survey. Tony Farrell, UK passenger sales manager for North Sea Ferries, who commissioned the survey from Gallup, said: "Most holidaymakers expect to be delayed but they are not kept informed. A staggering 74 per cent complained about not being given enough information when delayed, while 70 per cent were upset by the delay itself."

Firms could provide more training and employment for prisoners to benefit themselves and the community, according to a report to be published next week. Many inmates re-offend when they are set free because of their frustration at not working, it says.

In a letter published in *The Times* today, five peers, including Lord Ezra, former chairman of the Coal Board, and Lord Murray of Epping Forest, former TUC general secretary, strongly criticise the level of idleness among prisoners. They also call for greater private sector involvement, saying that Britain can no longer afford the costs of "unproductive imprisonment and rising crime".

The report, to be published by the Apex Trust, a charity which promotes employment opportunities for prisoners, highlights innovative schemes launched at jails in the Midlands with the help of the private sector. Employers are providing work and training for motivated inmates outside jail and, in a few cases, inside.

At Birmingham prison, where two-thirds of the 980 inmates are unemployed, a company is considering the provision of work training for people convicted of sex offences. The scheme is part of a programme sponsored by British Telecom and evaluated by the Apex Trust.

Of the 49,600 prisoners last year, 22,898 were employed each day, and 2,492 were on vocational training courses.

Opportunities for work have also fallen over the past 20 years. The average working week of prison workshops was 21 hours in 1988-89, compared with 28 hours in 1972-73.

Letters, page 13

## Training and jobs urged for prisoners

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

FIRMS could provide more training and employment for prisoners to benefit themselves and the community, according to a report to be published next week. Many inmates re-offend when they are set free because of their frustration at not working, it says.

In a letter published in *The Times* today, five peers, including Lord Ezra, former chairman of the Coal Board, and Lord Murray of Epping Forest, former TUC general secretary, strongly criticise the level of idleness among prisoners. They also call for greater private sector involvement, saying that Britain can no longer afford the costs of "unproductive imprisonment and rising crime".

The report, to be published by the Apex Trust, a charity which promotes employment opportunities for prisoners, highlights innovative schemes launched at jails in the Midlands with the help of the private sector. Employers are providing work and training for motivated inmates outside jail and, in a few cases, inside.

At Birmingham prison, where two-thirds of the 980 inmates are unemployed, a company is considering the provision of work training for people convicted of sex offences. The scheme is part of a programme sponsored by British Telecom and evaluated by the Apex Trust.

Of the 49,600 prisoners last year, 22,898 were employed each day, and 2,492 were on vocational training courses.

Opportunities for work have also fallen over the past 20 years. The average working week of prison workshops was 21 hours in 1988-89, compared with 28 hours in 1972-73.

Letters, page 13

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# Idyll of old England recoils at coal wagon

By JOHN YOUNG

BERKSWELL is unequivocally a handsome village. It nestles in the very heart of England, in the Meriden Gap that divides Birmingham from Coventry, and it boasts 42 listed buildings, among them a Norman church with a Tudor vestry, a working forge, a 16th-century public house, a museum and an abundance of half-timbered cottages.

Its name is said to derive from a well belonging to a Saxon lord called Bercul and the original well is situated near the church. Documentary records date back to the early 14th century and a few years ago it won a competition in the United States for the most attractive "off the beaten track" village in Great Britain.

Given the proximity of Coventry and the industrial West Midlands, it is wonderfully peaceful and unspoiled. Unlike many villages, it still has a thriving shop and post office, and home-made teas are served in the village hall.

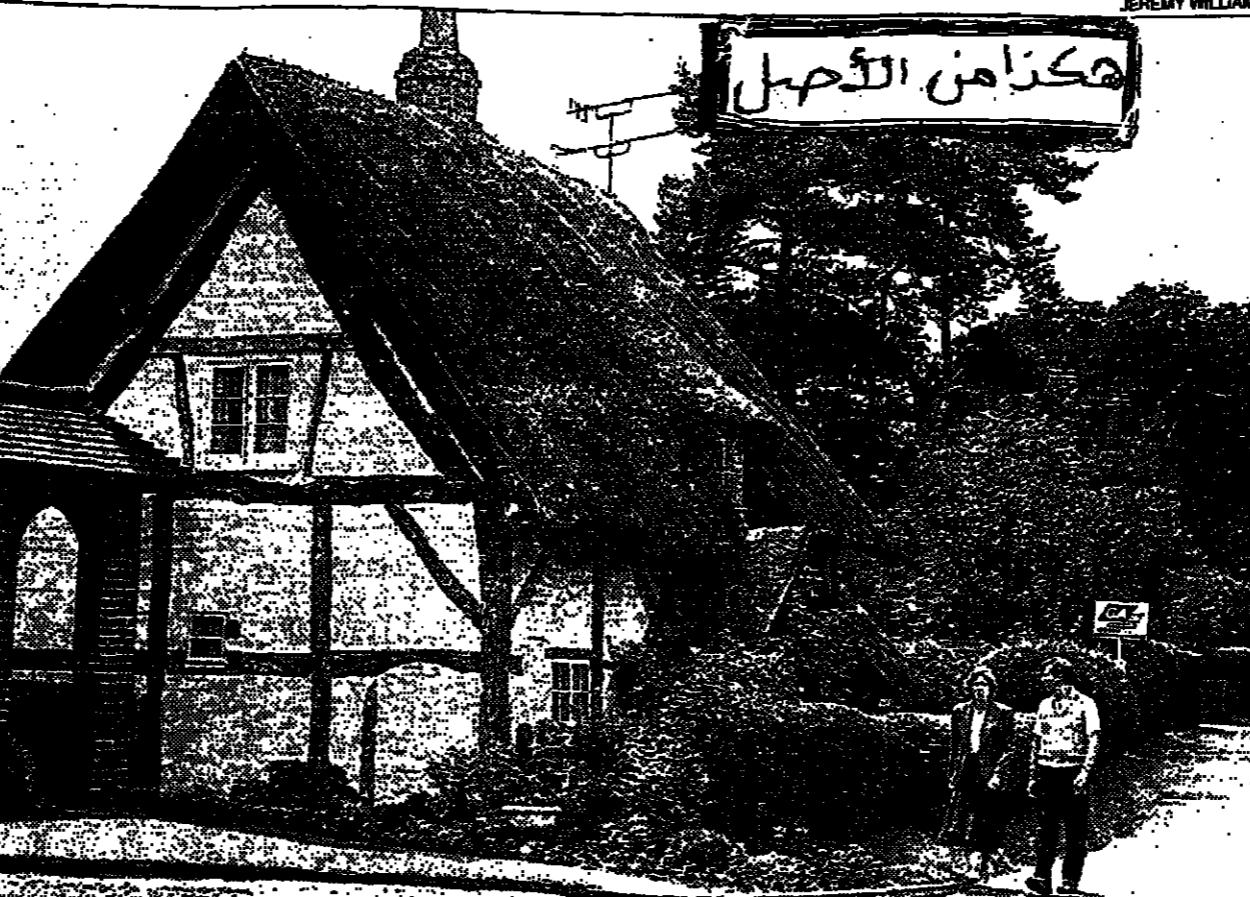
For the past few years, however, Berkswell has been under a monstrous cloud. Only half a mile away at Hawkswell Moor, British Coal wants to sink a pit to mine one of the richest seams in Europe, part of the giant unexploited Warwickshire coalfield. A four-month public inquiry was held last year, but the Department of the Environment has yet to reach a decision on it. At the inquiry much the same arguments

were rehearsed as at earlier inquiries into proposals for Selby in North Yorkshire, and the Vale of Belvoir in Leicestershire. British Coal emphasised the need to exploit new energy sources and the measures it would take to landscape the surroundings, avoid nuisance and disruption and keep dust and dirt under control.

Mr Terry Liggins, chairman of the Berkswell Society, is not convinced by British Coal's reassurances, however. "The noise and traffic during the construction period will be intolerable," he says. "Although it is a very deep seam, there will still be very severe subsidence. We are very worried about dust pollution and, although British Coal have said there will be no spoil heaps and that they will dispose of all the waste in old sand and gravel diggings, there is simply not enough space."

Fay Cairns, the society's secretary, says that construction would take 10 years and might not start for another 10 years. In the meantime, the village would remain blighted. Many people have already moved away, fearing that the character of the village will change, she says.

Perhaps the strongest case against the mine is that the green belt between Coventry and Birmingham is one of the narrowest and most vulnerable in Britain. It has already been intruded upon by the National Exhibition Centre



Alison Negus and Dr David Stableforth, opponents of the mine, in the threatened village of Berkswell

and by Birmingham airport and there is talk of a high-technology complex. Berkswell and Hampton-in-Arden are the only two remaining real villages in the area, where unspoiled countryside in-

cludes ancient woodland and bird sanctuaries.

One reason for the delay in reaching a decision is thought to be uncertainty about the future of energy policy. The recent controversy over the

soaring cost of Sizewell in Suffolk has done little for the cause of nuclear energy but equally the building of coal-fired power stations is unpopular because of concern about sulphur and carbon dioxide emission. Originally most of the coal from the proposed Berkswell pit was intended for Didcot power station in Oxfordshire, but that station's future is now said to be in doubt.

Trial date for IRA suspects

## Parliament

# Police warned over standards of courtesy

OFFICERS of the Metropolitan police were warned by the Home Secretary yesterday that Londoners were entitled to a better standard of courtesy and service from their police force.

David Waddington was speaking during a Commons debate on policing in London. As a result of the commissioner's PLUS programme, a searching examination of the service the force could offer, he hoped to see an increased emphasis on victims, a better response to the public's priorities, better strategic planning and better value for money.

"Above all, I want to see improvements in basic standards of courtesy and service."

There was a risk that by accepting that change was necessary, they damaged morale of the thousands in the police force who already delivered a high quality service, but the aim was to ensure that all lived up to the standards of the majority, and the majority need not feel unappreciated.

Opening the debate, Mr Waddington said that while most local authorities in London had an excellent record of working constructively with the police, five Labour-controlled councils had, until recently, refused to cooperate with police consultative groups.

When he named the five as Brent, Ealing, Hackney, Lambeth and Islington there were strong protests from Labour MPs. Mr Waddington said that if he was wrong about Islington, he withdrew his remarks unreservedly, but it was a poor reflection that some councils were not behaving as they should.

The Metropolitan Police were in a very real sense responsive to the people of London. Elected representatives could demand responses and at divisional level the police were closely in touch with the public through police consultative groups, lay visitor schemes and more informal contacts. "There is no doubt about responsibility and there is no doubt about the readiness to respond."

Mr Waddington said that the criminal statistics recorded by the commissioner in his annual report made sober reading. Of particular concern was the increase in violent crime, particularly where groups were special targets as a result of their age, sex, infirmity or the colour of their skins.

The police were waging a constant and courageous struggle against crime. Seven per cent more crimes were cleared up last year than the year before and muggings fell by nine per cent.

To meet the great concern about violence to women, the police were improving facilities for the treatment of victims of sexual assault and attacks in the home. There were now eight rape victim examination suites and 35 domestic violence units in London. There were 42 per cent more incidents of domestic violence last year than the year before.

"This is a terrible indication of what goes on behind closed doors and drawn curtains in London, but the fact that these incidents are being reported when clearly they were not in the past is also a significant indicator of public confidence in the force's ability to respond."

The Metropolitan police were to be congratulated on much of what they had achieved in the past year.

Mrs Teresa Gorman (Bilbucay, C) wanted the police to teach young women how to cope with attackers in their homes, on the streets, in cinemas or on the underground. She did not subscribe to the view that women should not fight back and recommended "socking them in the chops or kneeing them in the groin".

● The following acts received royal assent: Entertainments (Increased Penalties); Licensing (Low Alcohol Drinks); Term and Quarter Days (Scotland); Access to Health Records; Rights of Way; Horses (Protective Headgear for Young Riders); Gaming (Amendment); Social Security.

**Royal birthday tribute**

Mrs Thatcher, Neil Kinnock and other party leaders warmly congratulated the Queen Mother on her 90th birthday when the Commons agreed that the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill), the prime minister, party leaders, and Sir Bernard Braine (father of the House), should, on their behalf, deliver a formal address of greetings.

The prime minister said that nothing had endeared the public more than the decision of the then King and Queen to share the hazards of the bomb-scarred capital during the blitz.

"The warmth of her own affection for the nation is mirrored in the affection of the nation for her. She has come to symbolise the continuing of the Royal Family across four generations. The Queen's realms and the Commonwealth owe her a debt that can never be repaid."

Mr Kinnock referred to Queen Elizabeth's personal kindness and ability to make everyone feel special. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, spoke of "a certain magic in her ability to unite hearts and affections."

# Water firm fined £4,000 for fouling trout stream

A WATER company was fined the maximum penalty of £4,000 yesterday after admitting wiping out the entire fish population of a two-mile stretch of trout stream by allowing a water treatment chemical to flow into the river Worth, near Haworth, West Yorkshire.

Catherine Carter, for the prosecution, told magistrates in Keighley, West Yorkshire, that more than 250 dead trout and 600 other dead fish were brought out of the river near Yorkshire Water Services' Oldfield treatment plant.

The pollutant, ferric sulphate, caused the river's acidity to increase by up to 100,000 times and the iron level to rise 145 times above the safe level for fish.

Ms Carter said that the company was fined £1,000 in Sheffield last December for a similar offence at Ewden Beck.

The firm, which admitted the charges, was fined the maximum of £2,000 on each offence and ordered to pay £631 costs.

The court was told that the company had paid £1,250 to restock the river with trout and was negotiating over possible compensation.

● The weedkiller most widely used by councils has been banned in parts of Hampshire after it was found to have con-

taminated trout and salmon fisheries on the river Test (Douglas Broom writes).

A similar ban was ordered by Cambridgeshire county council last week in response to concern about levels of the chemical in drinking water. Atrazine is used by almost all local authorities as a general weedkiller on road verges, pavements, playing fields and public parks. British Rail also uses it on railway lines.

Friends of the Earth, which has been calling for a ban on atrazine and its sister chemical simazine for more than two years, welcomed the Hampshire decision. Blake Lee-Harwood, the pressure group's water pollution campaigner, said that little was known about the long-term effects of the chemicals on humans but tests on rats had produced liver and kidney damage.

The Association of County Councils said local authorities were considering banning atrazine as part of a nationwide "green audit" of chemicals in municipal use.

British Rail said atrazine was the only chemical suitable for killing weeds growing between the sleepers on railway tracks. However, it was not used close to sites of special scientific interest or on embankments.

Leaving London? page 20

Compared to the level of inflation, over the last 4 years British Gas tariffs have fallen by 10%

**British Gas**

# Albania braces for a revolution waiting to happen

Albania's days are numbered as the last remaining bastion of orthodox communism in Europe, Charles Meynell, editor of East European News Letter, writes. He finds ominous comparisons between Ceausescu's Romania and the problems facing President Ali's regime.

ALBANIA is heading swiftly into revolution. Tinkering with the politburo of the atrophied communist Albanian Workers' party is almost irrelevant at this late stage. To the young Albanians crowding into the embassies in Tirana or meeting dejectedly in town squares, it matters not who is minister of light industry.

Albanians have watched East Europe's revolutions on their television screens. They do not intend to remain in a time warp in the centre of post-revolutionary Europe. It would be astonishing if they did not take to the streets now that the totalitarian ruling party has its back to the wall. Ramiz Ali, the hapless president, will be

lucky to hang on for six weeks. The Romanian revolution is probably a foretaste of what can be expected in Albania. Both countries were terrorised by a ruthless political police, both have been subjected to years of slavish personality cult. Until two weeks ago Enver Hoxha, the former leader, was eulogised daily. The differences between the two countries is that Mr Ali, in contrast to Nicolae Ceausescu, is quite popular and the Albanian political elite does not flaunt its superiority and wealth.

Albanian peasant farmers want to do what they like with their goats and ancestors' land; engineers want to rejoin the tech-

nical world from which they have been barred for 45 years; intellectuals want freedom of speech and a cultural renaissance. Everybody knows that the Stalinist system adhered to by Hoxha during 40 years of despotism is unreformable, with or without Mr Ali.

That lesson has been learnt with a vengeance by the rest of Eastern Europe. Mr Ali, President Iliescu of Romania, and Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader in Yugoslavia, are yesterday's men.

One of the most astonishing aspects of the Albanian saga is that, from Hoxha's death in April 1985 to July 7 this year, the politburo remained exactly the same, as if petrified. The explanation is simple. Mr Ali is a weak personality, conditioned for years as a slave to Hoxha.

He has tried three times to introduce economic reforms over the past three years. Almost

nothing has resulted, for he has failed to prevail over the closely knit conservative clique that effectively runs the country. Nexhije, Hoxha's widow, is the group's spiritual leader. Mr Ali's guarded criticisms of his country's ruthless Sigurimi secret police were nothing short of pathetic. His two reformist colleagues, Foto Cami, the ideology chief, and, to a lesser extent, Besnik Bektashi, the economics chief, were publicly much more reformist two years ago than they are now. They, too, were cowed into silence.

Ismail Kadare, the best-known contemporary Albanian writer, whose literacy and intellectual credentials are genuine, although he is a party member, summed it up in an interview in the Albanian youth paper. In reference to the police state, he said: "A criminal psychosis is one which drives a country, state or administration towards crime. Created by the darkest forces in a country, it is enthusiastically amplified by the state's repressive apparatus..."

"Blinded by their psychosis, and desperate to prove their perennial theory that without them the state will collapse, they never imagine that the violence they carry out is a catastrophe for the state and themselves. Thus, as faithful dogs of the state, they become its destroyers."

The belated retirement from the politburo last week of Prokop Murra, the defence minister, and Simon Stefani, the interior minister, just as the communist party faced a terminal crisis, was another nail in its coffin. Mr Murra was succeeded by General Kico Mustaqi, his long-standing deputy, a former Sigurimi chief whom Hoxha put in charge of the army in 1982. Colonel Mustaqi has effectively run defence and security affairs for eight years.

Mr Stefani was succeeded by the pliant, unimaginative Hekurli Isai, another Hoxha protege thrust forward, like the colonel, after Hoxha had Mehmet Shehu, the prime minister, killed in 1981.

Mr Ali does not have the option of acquiescing to a number of opposition demands. There is no organised opposition, and there are not specific demands. Rather, there is a mass of angry, frustrated young people who are longing for basic freedoms. Mr

Alia has nobody to negotiate with. Instead he and his colleagues will face demonstrations all over the country which will rapidly get out of hand. As those who know Albanians well will testify, once their tails are up, they will go for it: party offices will be ransacked, the Sigurimi will be lynched (although not before they have fought back), and there will be a frightening power vacuum until a liberal intellectual with a commanding personality temporarily fills the void. Kadare?

It will probably be a roller-coaster of a revolution. But further ahead, the prospects are good. Albanians are an exceptional people, as can be seen in the skills and prosperity of the diaspora, particularly in the United States. They are good at business, and they are among the most engaging people in Europe.

Across the Yugoslav border in Kosovo province, ethnic Albanians have shown great skill in establishing efficient parties to counter the annexation policy of the neo-Stalinist Serbian com-

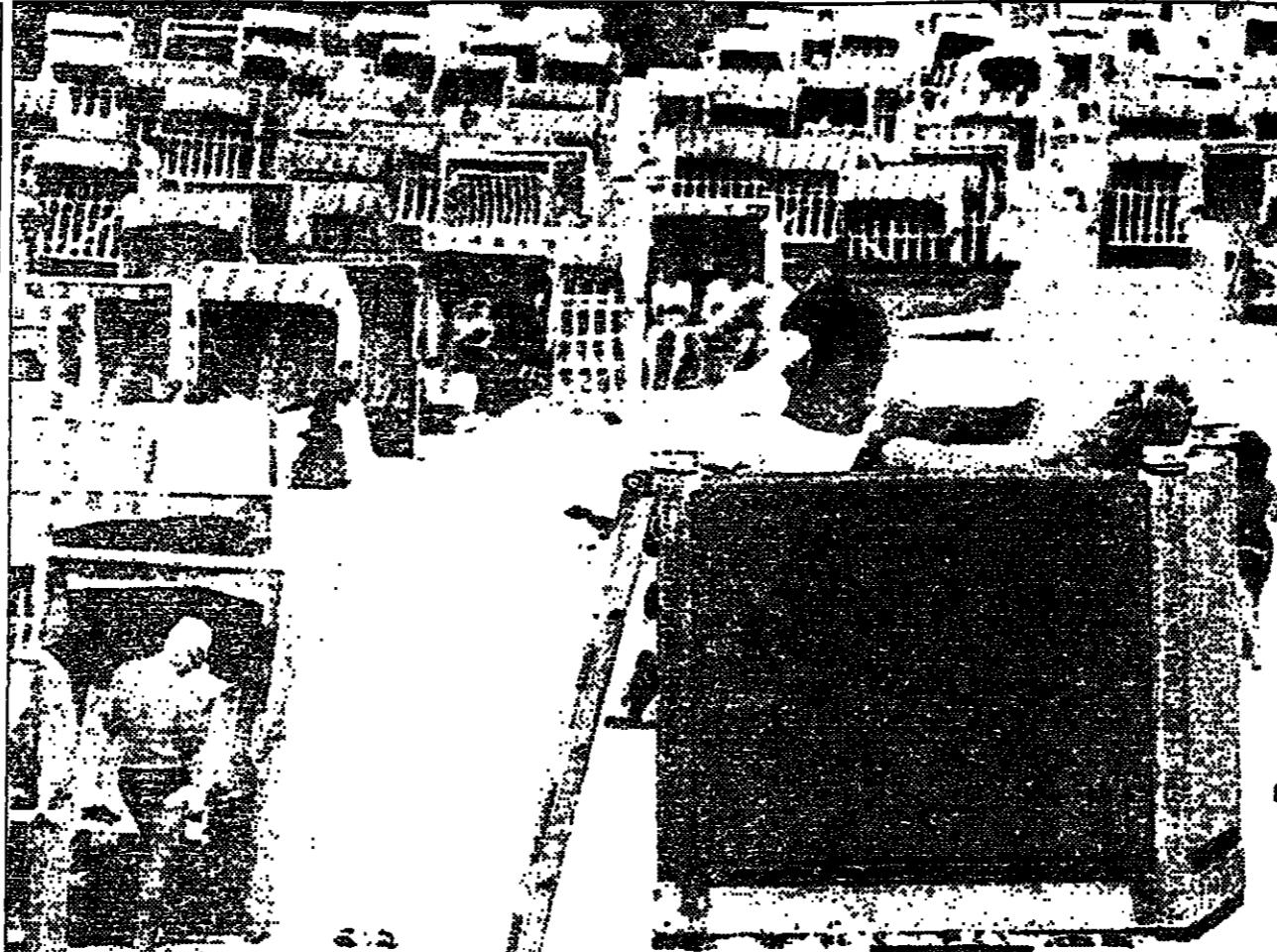
## Polish law abolishes state sector monopoly

From A CORRESPONDENT IN WARSAW

THE Polish parliament took a decisive step towards establishing a market-oriented economy yesterday by overwhelmingly passing a law to transfer state-owned properties into private hands.

The law, passed by the Sejm by 328 votes to two with 39 abstentions, also aims at encouraging badly needed investment by foreign companies. The law, as the most comprehensive of its type in eastern Europe, provides a framework for 80 per cent of the economy to be transferred from state to private sector through the issue of "privatization bonds". These will be given a nominal value by the Sejm and distributed for people to purchase shares in a company.

To help people to raise capital, the law creates credit, loan and deferred payment incentives. As an additional



While the coast is clear, a lifeguard in Timmendorf, a German resort on the Baltic, puts his feet up. But fine weather this weekend is expected to bring a flood of tourists to the popular coastline

## Deaths as Haiti boat capsizes

Miami — A wooden sail boat, overloaded with illegal Haitians emigrants, capsized while under tow by a Bahamian naval vessel, drowning at least 59 people, the Bahamas Government said (Alan Tomlinson writes).

A fisherman who helped bury the dead on a tiny desert island said that 48 people died on Tuesday off Staniel Cay, north of Great Exuma Island. The disaster was not made public until Thursday.

Sixty-seven survivors were taken to Nassau for deportation back to Haiti, together with 209 men, women and children from another Haitian boat intercepted near by.

### Aids monkeys

Kampala — Uganda is to export 3,000 vervet monkeys to the Soviet Union to be used in research on Aids drugs being developed there, the official *New Vision* newspaper reported. (AFP)

### Women priests

Dar es Salaam — Tanzania's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Africa, voted to ordain women priests, a church source said. (Reuters)

### Migrants boost

Canberra — Australia announced changes in immigration points test for family and independent applicants which would boost the number of migrants by nearly 12,000 this year. (AFP)

### Haj action

Nicuia — Iran's leading judge, Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Yazdi, said Tehran would lodge a complaint against Saudi Arabia with international courts over the death of 1,426 pilgrims in the Haj tunnel tragedy. (Reuters)

### Small change

Tokyo — A Japanese bank robber gave himself up after he discovered that his haul from the Kyoto Central Trust Bank turned out to be mostly fake notes. (Reuters)

### After shocks

San Francisco — Nine months after an earthquake caused power blackouts and flattened elevated roads here, the Seion Medical Centre reported a 25 per cent increase in births. (Reuters)

With limited sovereignty effec-

## Radicals outflank Gorbachev

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

HOW can anyone not feel just a little sympathy for President Gorbachev this weekend? For 10 days he planned and calculated and scolded and barked until finally on Thursday morning he was able to present his impatient reformers with the scalp they had craved. Yegor Ligachev, the defiant advocate of collective farming, state ownership and central planning had been soundly defeated at a party congress regarded as the most conservative on record.

Within eight hours, however, the reformists had turned around without so much as a word of appreciation and said that Mr Ligachev's scalp was not enough to keep them in the party. Why else should he have risked the defection of conservatives by destroying Mr Ligachev? The small print of the congress documents is evidence of how far he had moved towards the reformists even in the past three months.

There is a commitment to separate party and state, which is reinforced in the structure of the new leadership. Party organs will remain in the army and the KGB, but in a way designed to place them on a par with organisations of other parties. There are far friendlier words about

the Communist party as a parliamentary party than the reformists could have dreamt of when they founded their Democratic Platform group in February. While the emotive principle of democratic centralism may have been retained, the caveats make clear that, in substance, it is dead. In practice, if not in words, Mr Gorbachev has also accepted the principle of a federal party.

But for radicals whose tolerance for word play has been exhausted, promises are insufficient. Commitment to the separation of party and state, and party democracy was not enough so long as Mr Gorbachev retained the party leadership and the presidency. They distrusted reforms which rested on an assumed discrepancy between words and deeds. Despite the drama of their announcement, the declared schism was an exaggeration. This was not the big walkout the Democratic Platform had been threatening. How could it be when fewer than 100 delegates belonged to their movement?

Two circumstances have, none the less, helped to make the Democratic Platform's statement potentially more dangerous to the Soviet Communist party than it might have been: the formation of the Russian Federation Communist party last month and the departure from the party of Boris Yeltsin.

The election by the Russian Federation party of the reputed conservative, Ivan Polozov, as its leader, has given the planned breakaway party a rich recruiting ground in Russia. Dozens of urban party organisations have made clear that they do not want to join the Russian party, even though they are automatically considered part of it by virtue of living in the Russian Federation.

Those party organisations, if they voted to join the new Democratic Platform party en bloc, could take with them their premises, their publications and their subscriptions, so giving the new party a base infinitely stronger than that enjoyed by any political group except the ruling Communist party. This is why the Democratic Platform leaders have appealed to Communists not to hand in their party cards individually. Despite the group's poor representation at the congress, it is still aiming to be a sort of local Harry Secombe.

Even though the circumstances for the Democratic Platform's proposed new party seem advantageous, the radicals may have left their move too late. This was followed with a half-hour interview with a paediatrician and then more (of the same) news. The weather report revealed temperatures of up to 35C. Those waiting for some



Democratic Platform leaders Vyacheslav Shostakovsky, right, Vladimir Lysenko, left, and Vladimir Filin telling the press in Moscow of plans to form a new party

## Marking time in Berlin's 'Mickey Mouse' parliament

From ANNE McELVYNE IN EAST BERLIN

THE first freely elected parliament in East Germany's 40-year history met yesterday under security conditions even tighter than those demanded by its paranoid communist predecessor.

Half of the city's main thoroughfare, Unter den Linden, was closed to traffic to keep at bay the legions of workers protesting at their low pay and working conditions. Journalists now require special clearance and extensive security checks to enter the grandiose Volkskammer building which, despite its new occupants, is still known to East Berliners as "Erich's lamp shop" because of the former leader Erich Honecker's obsession with giant chandeliers.

With limited sovereignty effec-

tively ended by currency and economic union with West Germany, the Volkskammer's popularity has waned to a level not much higher than that of the old rubber-stamp parliament.

The cheerful debates and mutual regard which characterised the heady democratic days after the March election have given way to party rancour and continuous cross-bench accusations of who is most to blame for the 40 years of repression. Gregor Gysi, the leader of the socialists, said yesterday that he had seen "more political culture in the Berlin Zoo than in the parliament".

To public outrage it has emerged that the 400 MPs are paying themselves a salary of 5,000 German marks (£1,700) a month — five times the national average — as well as generous expenses. They have

also granted themselves de facto exemption from being breathalysed, greeting challenges from the police with the politician's standard cry: "Do you know who I am?"

Unfortunately few of their constituents do. In a recent poll by the Leipzig research institute, 70 per cent of those asked said they could not name their MP and more than 90 per cent thought that their representative could do "nothing to help them".

The parliamentary speaker, Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, is renowned more for her wardrobe than her rhetorical gifts. She was recently treated to a new wardrobe of designer clothes, including Chanel and Ungaro, by the West German Christian Democrats anxious to improve her matronly image. The well-publicised shopping trip cost

40,000 marks and a lot of government credibility. Now a protest group calling itself the "Campaign for the Removal of the Mickey Mouse Parliament" has installed itself in front of the metal barriers and calls vociferously for the dissolution of the parliament, to the evident discomfort of MPs arriving in an assortment of desirable cars for the twice-weekly sessions.

The group has calculated that it will cost more than 20 million marks to keep the parliament functioning until full reunification in December. "A waste of money: they have no influence with Bonn at all. No one would notice if they weren't here," said a campaigner, Jochen Enke.

The new breed of East German politicians has been quick to assign itself the privilege it criticised in

those it replaced. Rainer Eppelmann, the defence minister, formerly a prominent dissident and conscientious objector, has moved into his predecessor's luxury home in the military enclave of Strausberg and is now encouraging young East Germans to do military service.

His former colleagues from the underground movement complain that he has betrayed the November revolution. Katja Havemann, the wife of the renowned dissident scientist, Robert Havemann, who died after being in internal exile for years, has published a petition entitled "Rainer Eppelmann: we are ashamed of you".

Herr Eppelmann has responded to the campaign with the singular remark that times change.

Knock in store, page 12

## Cubans seize diplomat

From AFP IN PRAGUE

A CZECHOSLOVAK diplomat was held hostage for several hours in Havana by five Cubans who broke into his flat in an unsuccessful attempt to join 14 others taking refuge at the Czechoslovak embassy, the Prague foreign ministry said yesterday. Fifteen Cubans have sought asylum in foreign missions in the past week.

He also noted that among poets and writers there had been "no dissidents", but it is unlikely that this was being offered as evidence of the efficiency of the dreaded secret police, the Sigurimi.

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Even though the circumstances for the Democratic Platform's proposed new party seem advantageous, the radicals may have left their move too late. This was followed with a half-hour interview with a paediatrician and then more (of the same) news. The weather report revealed temperatures of up to 35C. Those waiting for some

time. Yesterday, Mario Rodriguez Martinez, the Cuban ambassador in Prague, went to the foreign minister. It said that Czechoslovakia would be asking Cuban authorities to ensure the security of its diplomats in Havana and the normal functioning of the embassy, in the interest of good bilateral relations.

CTK said the Cuban ambassador was told that Czechoslovakia would not hand over those who were now in the embassy. It had asked for them to be allowed to leave Cuba freely to go to the country of their choice. Prague was seeking diplomatic aid from other countries, the agency reported.

Diplomats in Havana have said they did not expect the trickle of asylum seekers to grow into the kind of refugee tide seen in Albania, and in Cuba in 1980 when some 10,000 Cubans descended on the Peruvian embassy. Then Havana eventually allowed 128,000 unemployed citizens to leave for the United States.

# Senate panel backs troop cut of 50,000 in Europe

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Senate armed services committee yesterday voted to cut \$18 billion (£10 billion) from the \$307 billion which the White House had requested for defence next year and to withdraw 50,000 US troops from Europe.

In a series of big decisions, the committee lopped nearly \$1 billion from the \$4.6 billion which the administration wanted for the Strategic Defense Initiative and refused to provide the money to put nuclear-tipped MX missiles on trains, a strategy pursued by both the Reagan and Bush administrations as a means of reducing vulnerability.

However, the committee also voted to keep the B2 "Stealth" bomber programme alive, endorsing the down-wardly-revised request of Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, for the purchase of two of the \$800 million planes in 1991.

Though the committee's decisions are far from final, they represent the very best that the

## UK seeks delay on refugees

A STRONG belief that six Asian nations may be about to prevent boat people landing at their ports has prompted an intensive British diplomatic effort to persuade them to delay their decision (Andrew McEwen writes).

The government fears that Hong Kong, which has had a respite from the influx of boat people, will again become the main destination for Vietnamese leaving their country.

But the Association of South-East Asian Nations is in no mood to accept further delay after more than a year of fruitless international negotiations to establish the right of its members to send boat people back to Vietnam.

## Land dispute talks 'progress'

Ottawa - Negotiations to end the land dispute in Quebec were said to be progressing yesterday (John Best writes). John Ciaccia, the Quebec provincial minister for native affairs, described as "very positive" a three-hour session with Mohawk Indian leaders who are refusing to let officials develop land they say is theirs.

The talks come in the wake of a gun battle that broke out this week when police attacked a barrier blocking access to the land near Montreal, and an officer was killed.

## Sister-in-law of Gandhi 'resigns'

Delhi - Maneka Gandhi, India's embattled environment minister and the sister-in-law of Rajiv Gandhi, the former prime minister, has resigned because many of her powers had been reduced, official sources said yesterday.

Her resignation highlighted growing dissension in the government and the ruling National Front coalition. (Reuters)

## Families blame suicides on music

FROM REUTER IN RENO, NEVADA

A JUDGE in Nevada will decide if subliminal messages allegedly contained on a record album by a British rock group encouraged two young men to kill themselves with a sawn-off shotgun.

The group Judas Priest, and CBS records, are the defendants in a lawsuit in which families of the two dead men are seeking at least \$500,000 (£279,000) in medical and other damages. The trial starts on Monday.

In December 1985, Raymond Eugene Belknap, aged 20, and James Vance, aged 18, shot themselves after an afternoon spent drinking beer, smoking marijuana and listening to an album by the group Judas Priest, called *Stained Glass*.

Eugene Belknap died instantly, James Vance, his face partially destroyed, lived on for three years more.

In a deposition, Vance had said that the moody, hypnotic music and lyrics - including a song titled *Beyond the Realms of Death* - "made me want to stop living".

Ken McKenna, the attorney representing Belknap's mother, claims Belknap and Vance were the victims of subliminal messages that bypass the reasoning function of the brain and work on the unconsciousness.

Mr McKenna and audio

experts working for the plaintiffs claim that playing the record backwards reveals "commands to take action", such as repeated urgings to "Do it, do it!"

Experts for the defence dismiss the claim and call the notion of implanting subliminal messages beneath the surface of music and lyrics "voodooism".

Anthony Pellicano, the president of a Los Angeles audio laboratory, said: "If you can hear it, it gets stored (in the brain). If you can't hear it, it doesn't get stored."

Simply stated, said Sueellen Fulstone, the attorney for the record company and Judas Priest, Belknap and Vance died as the result of a suicide pact between two troubled and anti-social youths.

She said rock music lyrics, like other forms of expression, were protected by the free-speech guarantees contained in the United States constitution.

In a similar case heard in California in 1988, an appeal court upheld a lower court's dismissal of a suit filed by the parents of a 19-year-old who killed himself after listening to an album by Ozzy Osborne called *Suicide Solution*. That music allegedly contained a subliminal call to "Get the gun and try it, shoot, shoot, shoot".



Rescuers carrying a critically injured pilot from the wreckage of his plane, which crashed into the canyon walls of the Ogden river in Utah, USA. The pilot, Floyd Duncan, was trapped for more than half an hour. A passenger was killed.

## Burmese military rulers issue warning to opposition

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN RANGOON

THE Burmese military junta indicated yesterday that Aung San Suu Kyi, the leading dissident, will not be released next week and warned her party not to try to announce a government despite its landslide elec-

tion victory. Major-General Khin Nyunt, head of military intelligence, said the junta would not yield to international pressure for her release or a transfer of power to her National League for Democracy.

Daw Suu Kyi was put under house arrest in 1989 for one year. She was arrested after she vowed to lead a

mass anti-government rally. She has never been formally charged.

The pressure to release her amounted to "undue interference in the internal affairs of our country," Khin Nyunt said. In the May election the National League for Democracy won 396 out of 485 seats. The general said the military government was

"ruling the country under martial law. No attempt at a unilateral declaration of government will be tolerated," the government said.

The general said Daw Suu Kyi was being treated leniently.

She was able to receive gift parcels from her British husband through the British Embassy.

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## Sicilians riot over water shortage

From PAUL BOMBARD IN ROME

A WATER shortage in southern Italy, resulting from the unusually dry winter, has resulted in mob violence in the western Sicilian town of Ribera.

Farmers chanting "we want water" yesterday accused local politicians of neglecting the situation. They demonstrated outside a town hall destroyed by fire on Thursday after hundreds of people from Ribera and surrounding farms stormed the building and set fire to smashed furniture.

They vowed to continue demonstrating till the situation improves. Extra *carabinieri* have been dispatched to maintain order.

One farmer, Giuseppe Verde, said: "The reason we do not have enough water is that the mayor and the city councillors have not built the aqueducts they were supposed to build. And the provincial and regional politicians are no better. The money is there but they don't use it for our interests but for their own."

Drought has become, for much of Italy, a perennial problem. A series of dry winters and inefficient aqueducts has left agricultural areas chronically short of water.

# A turbulent year that turned the tide for autocrats

Another wind of change is blowing through Africa, as pressure grows to sweep aside single-party systems. Gregory Kronsten, Africa editor for the Economist Intelligence Unit, reports on democracy's progress.

THE past six months have seen political developments in Africa that were unthinkable a year ago. Only a handful of countries, notably Botswana and Senegal, operated multi-party systems last year, but the one-party monopoly is increasingly being discarded.

In November President Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast was reverently praised after the establishment of an Unesco prize for peace research in his name. By February, student demonstrations in Abidjan were calling for his resignation, and by June, 14 opposition par-

ties had been officially recognised. President Mobutu of Zaire, an entrenched autocrat supported by zealous security forces, a personality cult, Western allies and a measure of goodwill, shocked observers in April by announcing the birth of the multi-party era.

The rapid changes have been influenced by events in Eastern Europe. African rulers have drawn conclusions for their survival, while the ruled, particularly the urban middle class, have watched apparently unassassable regimes tumble. Security forces are held in less fear and government critics have found a new readiness to take to the streets.

Certain official tenets of one-party philosophy are now treated with scepticism, notably the claim that multi-party government is synonymous with ethnic strife. The rulers themselves are no longer united on this point. Presidents Moi of Kenya and Mugabe of Zimbabwe still hold to this line, while President Babangida of Nigeria has permitted only two political parties and President Mobutu three, in the interests of ethnic harmony. To confuse the

picture further, Swaziland and Lesotho, perhaps the only two ethnically homogeneous states in Africa, have seen few indications of a multi-party dawn.

Traditional Western allies have also played their part. The American ambassador in Kenya said in public in May that his government's aid policy would partly reflect the political system of the recipient country. France has become more discerning in using its military.

Britain has welcomed the transition to a civil rule programme in Nigeria, its principal trading partner in black Africa, although in general it prefers to use its influence behind the scenes to push for liberalisation. The World Bank introduced the element of "better governments" in its report issued in November, *Sub-Saharan Africa: From Crisis to Sustainable Growth*. This suggested that greater accountability tended to motivate institutions and individuals and to make austerity measures that the bank is advocating widely in Africa more palatable. Even the Soviet Union has told the Ethiopian government that it cannot supply military support as long as

President Mengistu has no real intention of negotiating with the Eritrean and Tigrean rebels.

The political landscape has changed so fast that some rulers will have difficulty preserving a place for themselves in the new order. These are not born democrats and their reaction had been broadly to respond to individual challenges without a strategy. It would seem that the autocrat is at his weakest when making concessions under duress, and that he who gives ground spontaneously stands a better chance of survival.

Presidents Mobutu and Sassou-Nguesso of Congo come within this category. President Mobutu of Zaire has an impelling reason to find himself a role in the changing system: life for him as an ordinary citizen is not a practical possibility, not least because of his rumoured personal fortune, while his current allies are not expected to welcome him staying with them.

By contrast, President Bongo of Gabon has seen that a series of concessions since student riots in January has not bought him time. Two

government reshuffles in two months, the scrapping of some unpopular taxes, a new identity for the ruling party and a national conference have all failed to dampen popular demand for change.

President Kaunda named a date (October 17) for a referendum on multi-party rule after serious riots last month against food-price rises. In Ivory Coast President Houphouet-Boigny has met delegations of striking teachers, policemen, soldiers and bank workers, and accepted their grievances, while his government has pleaded its genuine financial difficulty. He is in his late 80s and is expected to stand down later this year. But he has only complicated the legacy of his successor.

President Moi is not alone in Africa in refusing to countenance changing the one-party state and has publicly referred to "multi-party garbage". But the probability is that a combination of the domino effect, further pressure from the aid donor community and intensification of public protest will force concessions from the Kenyan government.

The move towards multi-party sys-

tems should not be equated with the advent of undiluted Western parliamentary democracy. The ranks of the demonstrators on the streets of African cities have been swollen by a good number of opportunists.

In some countries the ruling group of, as in Burkina Faso, ruling coalition, is likely to remain, but with marked tendencies to increase the choice for the voter. With a more open ruling party of variety of parties, the presidency (not always contested) will be able to guide events through patronage, media influence and a say in the formulation of rules for the new system. This presidency is most unlikely to accept a genuine separation of powers between the executive judiciary and legislature. Laws to make the security services accountable and introduce press freedom safeguards would not be on the agenda.

Political pluralism will thus have a strong African hue. But the rapid changes of the past six months are such that a number of well known African leaders will find themselves discarded, and in much reduced circumstances.

## Mandela ridicules West over calls for African democracy

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NAIROBI

NELSON Mandela yesterday entered the increasingly violent debate about democracy in Africa with a speech ridiculing recent calls from Western nations for the spread on the continent of the political pluralism now taking root in Eastern Europe.

To loud cheers, Mr Mandela asked his predominantly black African audience: "What rights have the West, what right have the whites, to teach us about democracy when they executed those who asked for democracy during the time of the colonial era?"

The attack appeared particularly aimed at criticism from Britain as Mr Mandela, dressed in a sweater and suit despite the blazing sun, went on to laud two prominent leaders of the Mau Mau struggle against the British, one of whom was executed by British forces in the 1950s.

The speech, delivered at a rally boycotted by many ordinary Kenyans in a protest against one-party rule in Kenya, was seen as support for President Moi in his continuing struggle against supporters of a multi-party system.

Mr Mandela, the deputy president of the African National Congress, was addressing a crowd of barely 20,000 in a giant sports stadium designed to hold 60,000. Most of those who did attend were children and his arrival had to be delayed for more than two hours as the government bussed in more people to try to fill the embarrassing empty spaces.

Drivers who ferried correspondents to the rally at the stadium six miles outside

Nairobi, near a district which saw much recent rioting, claimed that many Kenyans had stayed away to express their anger at President Moi's refusal to permit any open debate over the future of Kenya's one-party system.

The country remained tense as rumours spread that another attempt to stage an illegal pro-democracy rally would be made today. Many white residents were stocking up with food in anticipation of more violence, and many others said they planned to leave Nairobi for the weekend. The government has detained at least five more pro-democracy campaigners over the past 48 hours and pledged ruthless tactics against any would-be demonstrators.

In an attempt to minimise yesterday's boycott, Kenya Television announced only hours before the Mandela rally that employers were being urged to grant workers a holiday to attend. But the move had little effect and diplomatic observers said the reception was one of the most feeble given to Mr Mandela during his six-week international tour. At 11am, the time he was scheduled to speak, scarcely 3,000 people were seated in the Chinese-financed stadium, whose architecture gave the proceedings a dated, communist-style feel. Anxious security men could be seen trying to rustle up more people and spreading those present to give an impression of a decent attendance.

"How many sons and daughters of Africa have paid with their own lives because all that they asked for was the right to determine their own affairs?" asked Mr Mandela in his diatribe against the West, which reflected growing resentment in many parts of black Africa against Western attempts to push the cause of democracy.

Anti-Western feeling in Kenya has been growing noticeably more bitter in recent days, with repeated attacks by the government and politicians on foreign embassies, notably that of the United States, and foreign journalists covering the violence which has so far left at least 28 people dead. A statement issued by 51 MPs of the ruling Kenya African National Union yesterday urged foreign correspondents, particularly those working for the BBC and the Voice of America, to cease describing the disturbances as "pro-democracy protest".

Mr Woewiyu, the guerrillas' chief negotiator, said that there was "absolutely no ceasefire, no change in our military strategy" as he left the talks held in a seaside conference centre in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone.

Mr Woewiyu said that the rebels would attend another session of the talks, being mediated by the Economic Community of West African States, next week. Abass Bundu, the community's executive secretary and the chief mediator, said that the talks would resume on Tuesday.

There was no immediate comment from the government delegation, which has been in Freetown since talks mediated by Liberian church leaders collapsed last month. Rebels of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, under Charles Taylor, have surrounded Monrovia in their attempt to topple President Doe. Mr Taylor has said he will take the capital by the end of the week.

Mr Doe, a former army sergeant who shot his way to power in a 1980 coup, is held up in his heavily fortified mansion in Monrovia as the guerrillas push their way into the city.

Sources close to the president say that he has packed his bags and is ready to flee. The United States, Liberia's closest ally, has offered to take him abroad but the sources say that he would prefer to go to his home region of Grand Gedeh county in eastern Liberia, a stronghold of his minority Krahn tribe.

More than 6,000 Liberians and foreigners have sought refuge in churches and embassies in Monrovia.



President Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast, right, showing President Babangida of Nigeria his controversial basilica at Yamoussoukro. It will be consecrated by the pope

## OAU members face threat of growing unrest

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NAIROBI

THE vague commitment to further democratisation at this week's summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity is unlikely to quell the unrest in many of the 51 member states, where decades of undemocratic rule are being challenged on the streets.

In Kenya, until last week one of Africa's more stable countries, it was considered typical of the government's contemptuous attitude towards the pro-democracy movement that there was no mention on Thursday of the OAU communiqué in the *Kenya Times*, the paper of the ruling party. Instead, the paper attacked Western news organisations which it accused of "falsehoods, distortions, innuendos and tendentiousness" for suggesting that the recent riots were linked to the campaign to end one-party rule.

More to the liking of leading party members was a comment by President Mugabe of Zimbabwe at a private session of the OAU in Addis Ababa. Answering those in the West demanding political reforms in Africa he said: "To such teachers of democracy I say 'go to hell'."

At the beginning of the year there were pro-democracy protests in more than a dozen African nations. These include Benin, Zambia, Ivory Coast, Zaire and Gabon, which have had one-party regimes for over 18 years.

The attacks on the West have concentrated on the United States, which has been accused of a new brand of imperialism by suggesting that American aid will flow more readily to those embracing political pluralism.

The complaint reiterated by Kenyan ministers and by officials from other hard-pressed states is that African conditions are unlike those in Eastern Europe and the democratic solutions do not apply.

President Moi, whose only concession has been to state that multi-party democracy could not be ruled out if Kenya was to become a more cohesive nation, has claimed that introducing such a system now would increase the dangers of tribal violence.

Other African heads of state have argued that, unlike Eastern Europe under communism, economic reforms have already been introduced in a number of African countries where the pressure for an end to one-party rule is now being felt.

Dr Kuria said he had told low-ranking officials at the British High Commission in Nairobi of the oppression he and others had suffered, but it seemed the information had not reached their superiors.

## US 'giving more aid to Unita'

From JAN RAATH  
IN HARARE

THE United States has deployed military advisers with the Unita rebels inside Angola for the first time. Pedro de Castro Van-Dunem, the Angolan foreign minister, claimed in the Zimbabwean capital yesterday.

It is the first time in 15 years of American military assistance to Unita that the Angolan government has made such a claim. If proved true, it signifies a deep and potentially dangerous commitment by Washington to the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi.

Mr Van-Dunem would not offer firm evidence that American personnel were in the country, but promised that "when we capture them, we will present them to the press". Western diplomats warned against dismissing the claims out of hand.

His claim came shortly before the scheduled resumption of peace talks in Portugal between the governing and Unita on ending the 13-year civil war. It also coincided with a dramatic escalation in fighting in the north, which has led to the virtual encirclement of the capital, Luanda.

The minister confirmed Western reports of an important transfer of Unita's operations from the south, where it operated until last year with South African support, to the north where military shipments are moved from American military bases inside neighbouring Zaire.

The *Washington Post* reported last month that US congressional intelligence committees had approved an additional \$10 million (£5.6 million) in covert aid for Unita, supplementing the \$50 million already budgeted.

The minister said recent sabotage of power supplies plus bombing attacks in Luanda bore the marks of considerably more skill than usual Unita operations.

## Another Kenya activist held

By ANDREW MC EWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ANOTHER prominent human rights activist in Kenya has been arrested despite growing international pressure on President Moi to end his crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

Dr Martin Hill, an official with Amnesty International in London, said that George Anyona, a former member of parliament, would be spared by the pro-democracy campaign to make a second attempt. Another big unauthorised rally is expected to be held today.

Dr Gibson Kuria, a human rights lawyer who fled to Britain on Thursday to escape arrest, yesterday predicted "anarchy" in Kenya if the government continued to deprive it of the rule of law.

"The government has ... tried to suspend those parts of the constitution and laws which it thinks will facilitate the restoration of the multi-party system." It was possible

that international pressure would prevent bloodshed.

Dr Kuria appealed to Britain and other Western nations to take a tougher line. They were afraid of being accused of "cultural imperialism", but this was unwarranted, he said. They should drop their "shyness" and insist that African nations, as much as those in Eastern Europe, showed respect for human rights.

Dr Kuria said he had told low-ranking officials at the British High Commission in Nairobi of the oppression he and others had suffered, but it seemed the information had not reached their superiors.

## JOHANNESBURG NOTEBOOK by Gavin Bell

### Welfare is just another name for anti-social security

By GAVIN BELL

JOHANNESBURG

members  
threat of  
ing unrest

ment's role in the armed struggle of the ANC, the party's armed wing, the Umkhonto we Sizwe, was established in 1961. The party's armed struggle was to be a struggle of the people, to overthrow the colonial power. But in reality, it was imposed by the party's leaders to overthrow the colonial power in the name of the colonial people.

US giving  
more aid  
to United  
Nations

What Car? went on to describe the Accord as "smooth and punchy".  
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# Back-to-font reasoning

Clifford Longley

Christenings remain an important social and ceremonial part of the British way of life. A large proportion of the population turns to the Church of England to provide them, as it does for wedding and funeral services, so giving the church a constituency that other parts of its ministries cannot reach.

Nobody in the church beigrades a church funeral, it seems, no matter how immoral or unbelieving the occupant of the coffin may have been. Except for the divorced, the clergy of the established church are obliged to marry anyone who meets the minimal legal requirements — which say nothing about believing anything in particular about marriage or religion — and no fuss is made about that either. But christenings, which the church prefers to call baptisms, have become deeply controversial. This is a service the church is in the process of withdrawing from the general community.

For a few moments at least, the York meeting of the General Synod last weekend looked about to embark on legislation to ban "indiscriminate" baptism, confining it to those who take it seriously as a rite of Christian initiation. Parents would have been required to make a solemn promise that they were willing and able to raise their child in the Christian faith, which, by implication, would have restricted christenings to the families of those who are regular members of local congregations.

But before battle had been properly joined, the synod was told that a report on the wider issues was almost ready for publication, and so was persuaded to take the matter no further for the time being. Yet the debate and the proposed legislation were signs of growing pressure within the church to put a stop to indiscriminate baptism. Sooner rather than later, that pressure will prevail. Already fewer than half the number of newly-born children are baptised into the Church of England. Indiscriminate baptism is an embarrassment because it amounts to a public admission by the church that an important religious service may properly be used for purely social and conventional purposes by those who regard its religious content as meaningless. Many vicars refuse to officiate at christenings for non-believing families, and their refusal provokes many a storm in parish teacups.

This is partly the church's own fault. The traditional doctrine of baptism has become meaningless for many inside the church too. There is general agreement only that baptism is a ceremony marking entry into the visible community of the church (which is why so much weight is placed on the importance of parents being regular worshippers). The traditional view was that baptism is far more profound and significant, but it

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

Ring in the crows to peck at the eagles, says Coriolanus, speaking of the Roman equivalent of the media: the mob.

I admire Nicholas Ridley, but clear from your mind any suspicion that I agree with him. I don't like Germans. All this stuff about Jerry sounds crackers to me, but then President Kruger believed to the day he died in 1904 that the earth was flat. We each have our share of nutty ideas. Now we know Mr Ridley's. It gave us all a giggle.

But otherwise, so what? The important truth that Dominic Lawson has demonstrated about this man is that he is not circumspect. Circumspection being by a long chalk the nastiest characteristic prevalent among our politicians, it is sad that this episode will encourage its spread.

Speaking for myself, if a journalist returned from interviewing the prime minister to report that halfway through lunch she had lunged at him declaring that she found him unbearably attractive, I should explain "She's human" and nothing would ever again cloud my admiration for her. And, should be report that while chatting with Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader had drained his cup, stared into the dregs, and confessed that he never ventured out of doors before reading the auspices in his tea leaves, I should treat Mr Kinnock with a new respect, because though I do not believe in tea leaves, I do believe in people who decide for themselves what they believe and don't care who knows it.

How despicable is our political culture! We whine that politicians are not frank. We grumble that MPs have become as alike as traffic-cones, tamely toeing the line. We grumble that you cannot get a straight yes or no from a minister. We whine that our leaders do not trust us enough to confide in us...

And then we spot a man like Ridley, out of line with the baby-kissing, vanilla-flavoured clones whom we affect to dislike — and what do we do? Rush at him like scavenging dogs and tear him limb from limb. "For the mutable, rank-scented

reflected beliefs that are now thoroughly out of fashion. For to believe in the traditional view, it was first necessary to believe in hell, damnation and the devil, in heaven and salvation, and in Christ's atoning power. Those who still talk like that — except as a metaphor for life's hard knocks — are deemed to be such dyed-in-the-wool conservatives that they are right off the Anglican scale.

Traditionally, baptism was a washing away of original sin, a passage from spiritual death to spiritual life. The unbaptised did not go to heaven when they died, for they were still enslaved to Satan. Baptism was a permanent mark on the soul, showing which were God's own, even as the Israelites marked with blood the immunity of their homes from plague before the exodus from Egypt. To die unbaptised was a fearful thing. To be baptised was to join Christian civilisation.

Such deep feelings linger long, particularly in the rural areas of England and in the rural subconscious of the townsfolk. But they get little support from churchmen, who are inclined to treat them as superstitious. And they do dwindle into superstition when such notions are no longer related to Christian doctrine: not to have a child baptised, it is still widely believed, is to invite bad luck. This is folk religion because the church has moved away from what it originally taught about baptism, while ordinary people have hung on to it in a half-remembered and less-than-half-understood form. But they remember that baptism is a sacrament, while the church now remembers it only as a symbol.

Baptism is more than, even other than, the recruitment of a new member to the local parish church. Taken as merely that, it is meaningless, for no baby or small child can make a lifetime's religious commitment, least of all by the proxy voice of adult parents and godparents. The informed answer to a clergyman who refuses to allow a baptism unless the parents and godparents truly believe the words they have to say is to ask him whether he truly believes them himself. Does he, for instance, believe in the devil?

If traditional doctrine no longer meets the need, the answer is not to translate it into a merely sociological phenomenon that drains away the sacramental richness. That merely throws the fountain out with the baby. The answer is to dig deeper into the sources of doctrine, to find those levels of resonance which were always present but went unheard. Only by recovering a meaning for baptism more momentous than a scout's promise, more profound than putting a child's name down for Eton, will the church know what it is doing and what it ought to be doing. Meanwhile, indiscriminate baptism is as good a policy as any.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

many, let them regard me — as I do not flatter — and therein behold themselves? — Coriolanus again. We castigate our politicians then complain that they have no balls. Like us.

As they come home to their safe seats, safe beds, and safe marriages, draw their security-net bedroom curtains and place their false teeth and their false opinions neatly in a glass of sterilising solution for an overnight soak, a score of ministers will tonight be thanking God that they are as other men are, and resolving to be even more careful than yesterday not to do or say or think anything unusual. "Every day and in every way, dear Lord," they pray, "help me to make British party politics more closely resemble synchronised swimming."

And thus does our modern media-driven Darwinianism advance the evolution of the species: survival of the fittest. But there is a way out! The defensive instinct only buys time before the inevitable rout. Then to the attack! Henceforward, a timetable should be arranged so that every week a cabinet minister gives an interview to Dominic Lawson. Each will reveal opinions more incredible than the last.

Hot on the heels of news that John Major keeps a troupe of performing miniature poodles will come word that the Lord Chancellor would personally welcome a return of the ducking stool for witches. Amazement will be overtaken by shock as the home secretary reveals that he has 60 children by a series of polygamous marriages. Shock will fade as we react to the foreign secretary's admission that he can't stand foreigners.

Each amazing outburst will be followed by a disclaimer from Downing Street, reminding us that ministers can say and do what they like in private; it is not government policy. Each will be received with slightly less interest than the last.

The final test will come when Denis Thatcher tells *The Spectator* that his wife has always dreaded an invasion by creatures from outer space. "Maggie Tells of Little Green Men" the *Sunday Sport* will report. None of the other papers will bother.

### Bread and wine party

Was Christ a vegetarian? The question is currently causing schism in the Vatican, where a new book by a Catholic priest famous for inviting his congregation to bring their pets to mass insists that meat was definitely off the menu at the Last Supper.

"Many people became famous after their death, so it's important to include them now," explains

Allan Massie believes Scotland craves what is being foisted on Northern Ireland

# Mr Rifkind, please do a Brooke

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, will soon announce a new "political initiative". It is part of the job, but such initiatives are expressions of hope but of hopelessness. The situation is intolerable and unchanged; it cannot be allowed to go on as it looks like going on. So some initiative is necessary, if only to give the illusion of change.

Unlike Mr Brooke and his predecessors, Scottish secretaries exist to prevent initiatives. The majority in Ulster may be nervous about them, but the evidence suggests that the majority in Scotland would welcome one. Scotland has not had majority rule since 1979. At the last general election, the Conservatives attracted less than 25 per cent of the vote, and only 10 of the 72 Scottish MPs are Tories.

All the other parties are committed to constitutional reform, but there will be no initiative from the Tories. Of course this can be justified: Scotland, unlike Northern Ireland, is fully integrated into the British political system, and must abide by the result of British elections. The Tories fight elec-

tions in Scotland, which they lose, but not in Northern Ireland, where they might win.

In both Scotland and Northern Ireland the government's policy is consistent in one respect: it is founded on make-believe. In Ulster the government pretends that irreconcilable differences can be wished away by political initiatives; in Scotland it pretends that public dissatisfaction will disappear if it is ignored. This is a run way to carry on.

The Conservatives were not always indifferent to constitutional reform in Scotland. In the early 1970s they were ahead of Labour in promising devolution. Then — partly because of the fears of supporters in the business community, and partly because of the nature of Labour's proposals — they argued against Labour's devolution bills. But they still did not oppose the principle.

In the 1979 referendum, Lord Home advised Scots to vote "no" because the bill was flawed and the Conservatives would bring in a better one. In government, however, things were different: Mrs Thatcher thought of devolution as

a socialist policy. Her first secretary of state, George Younger, contrived to govern Scotland as Willie Ross had done under Harold Wilson, keeping Scottish matters as far as possible separate from business affecting Britain as a whole. It did not work. The Conservatives lost ground in the 1983 election.

In 1986, Younger was replaced by Malcolm Rifkind, a man of charm, energy and intelligence who is liked and admired even by opponents. But the 1987 election was a disaster. The Tory response was to offer more of the same. Scotland was to be given a crash course in Thatcherism. Rifkind, though a devolutionist in the 1970s, did not demur. Michael Forsyth, a Thatcherite zealot, became an under-secretary at the Scottish office, and then chairman of the party in Scotland. For a couple of years, these two defined the idea that government supported only by a handful of Scottish Tories would be impossible. The inability to man the select committee on Scottish affairs and its consequent abolition seemed to do the government no

harm. The Scottish economy was fairly buoyant, and the spirit of the party revived. The deliberations of the Scottish convention on the constitution were ignored, apparently with impunity.

In the last few weeks, things have come unstuck. The crash course may be heading for a crash landing. Rifkind's own position is imperilled. First came his blunder of failing to spot discrimination against Scotland in the budget over poll-tax refunds. Then came

the evidence of his impotence in the face of British Steel's

announcement that its Ravenscraig mill was to close.

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flawed, for they seem not to realise that these are matters for a properly

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not come this side of a general

election. It may take the loss of

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alise that Scotland cannot be

satisfactorily governed without

constitutional reform.

posals for devolution. Yet they have opposed the bill from a nationalist standpoint, on the grounds that something fundamental to the Scottish identity, the separate and historic legal system, is being subjected to important reforms which are ill-considered and condescending and which were not given sufficient debating time in committee. They have been behaving like Scottish Canaries.

Their position is logically flawed, for they seem not to realise that these are matters for a properly representative Scottish parliament, but in arriving at the Gaullist position, they have adopted the only attitude which gives the Scottish Tories any hope of recovery. For that hope to be realised, there would have to be a political initiative of the type we are promised in Ulster, but it will not come this side of a general election. It may take the loss of another four or five seats to make a Conservative government realise that Scotland cannot be satisfactorily governed without constitutional reform.

German intellectuals likewise, I remind after 1971, will the mission to computerise *Mitteleuropa*, to stamp the whole continent with "made in Germany", suffice for the next generation?

Alfred Herrhausen, the omnipotent head of the Deutsche Bank who was murdered by terrorists last year, struck me as the archetypal modern German when I talked to him in Moscow in 1988 after he and Mr Gorbachev had signed a £1 billion loan agreement. His urbane, slightly cynical intelligence, his muscular good looks, his cosmopolitan culture, were deeply impressive. In some ways he was a more powerful man than Helmut Kohl, and he deserved to be. Only later did I learn that Herrhausen had attended one of the special schools where the Nazis had hoped to train their future élite. History is hard to escape even for the middle-aged, even for the young.

If Germany is to hold the balance of power in the new Europe, will the values that it exports continue to draw on the erratic, muted nationalism which Adenauer, Brandt and Kohl have all embodied? There is no sign yet that the surfeit of ideology from which the Germans suffered in the first half of the century has worn off. There have been West German reassessments of anti-democratic thinkers like Nietzsche and even of Nazi ones like Carl Schmitt; but these are largely confined to the seminar rooms. Reunification has dealt a severe blow to the left-wing intelligentsia in both Germanies which, unlike Marx himself, has tried to present all nationalism as daemonic.

What made the extreme ideologies of the 1920s so lethal for the Weimar Republic, though, was not their prevalence: it was the hypertrophied sense of grievance. At present the Germans have little to complain of, but that will not stop them complaining. The Ridley affair, like similar robust criticism in the American or Soviet press and Mrs Thatcher's occasional sallies, may have touched the Germans' permanently exposed nerve. Now so close to squaring both the superpowers, Helmut Kohl is not going to let the British give him history lessons. While we smoke a Churchillian cigar, they see only Mr Chamberlain's sorry old gimp.

Johannes Gross, the Cologne columnist who is among the most cold-blooded living anatomists of the German psyche, has a less exciting verdict: the end of the German question, he declares, means the end of Germany's uniqueness. German politics, he believes, will now be subsumed into European politics. But if the tragic era of German history has come to an end, as so many

of two very valuable original paintings, 0243 374538". Dr Hertzog told those who rang that he wants £14 million for one and £8.42 million for the other, but for security reasons would not disclose the titles. Logic might have suggested that it should be the other way round, but no matter.

Hertzog described himself to callers as a "practitioner in alternative medicine" and said that he was merely a middle-man who had been approached "because of my contacts in the art world". Anyone ringing the number yesterday to offer £2.4 million found themselves talking to an unlikely saleswoman in the form of Dr Hertzog's mother-in-law, who is somewhat hard of hearing. She admitted her connection with the doctor, but said she had no idea when he would return, and knew nothing about any paintings.

On hearing the news that further works by the world's most expensive artist were up for grabs, Michel Strauss, resident Impressionist expert at Sotheby's, reacted with total scepticism. He had not rung Hertzog, he said, and has intention of doing so.

Because of a hunch in getting a passport, the black South African poet Mzwakhe Mbuli could not appear in person at Hammer Smith's Riverside Studios for his first public reading in Britain. But the audience of 100, who had paid £6 a head, were not too disappointed. "We telephoned Mzwakhe in South Africa," says a Riverside spokesman, "and he read his poems down the line." It was so clear that not one syllable of Dr Christopher Hertzog of Emsworth, Hampshire, paid £40 for the following message to appear: "Van Gogh: Private sale

# Why the giant of Europe must expect some knocks

Daniel Johnson puts the Ridley affair in the context of a century of mutual admiration and resentment

Nothing could be more

childish than to dismiss Nicholas Ridley's lampooning of Germany in

*The Spectator* as the product of English eccentricity or, like the West German liberal leader Count Otto Lambsdorff, to accuse him of being drunk. A Prussian *Junker* who lost a leg in battle in 1944, when the Nazi cause was already hopeless, Count Lambsdorff knows better than most that Hitler and Auschwitz are never far from the surface of German public life.

Just a year before the Berlin Wall was breached, the Speaker of the Bundestag, Philipp Jenninger, was forced to resign after a speech which was thought much too kind to those who followed Hitler. Many Germans privately agreed with every word; yet they acquiesced in the resignation. Like Jenninger, Ridley is both a scapegoat and a conduit.

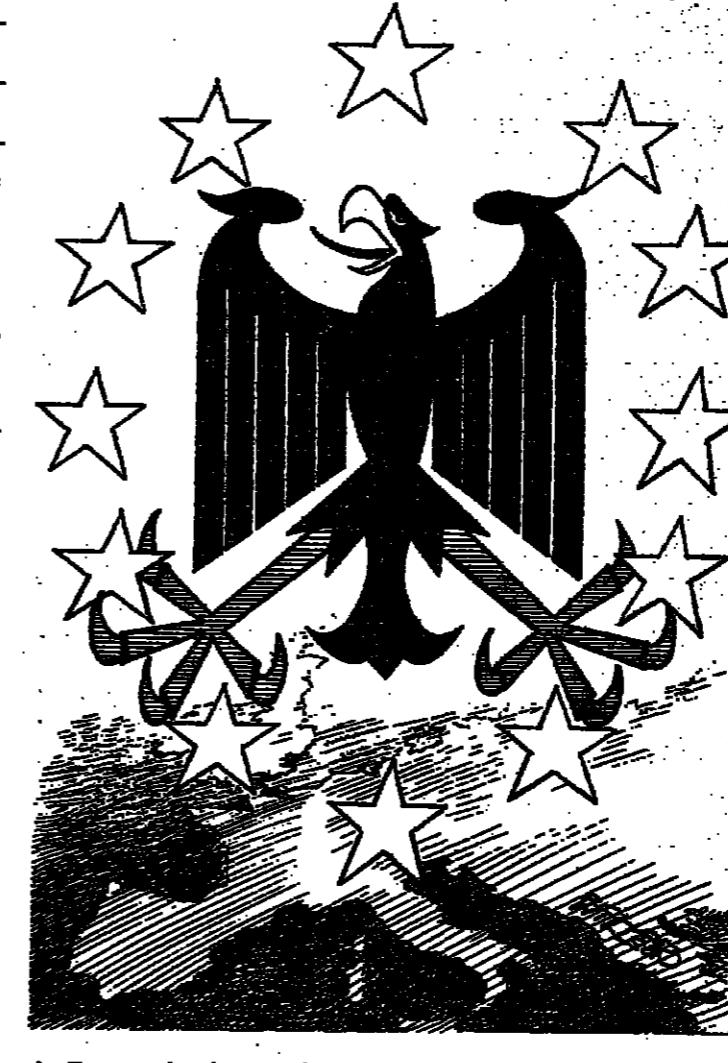
National stereotypes accompany the more complex harmonies of historical reality, in a deeper register. For 40 years, the British have treated the Germans with a healthy respect, only occasionally mingled with resentment at their greatest commercial success. Hostile sentiments have been dissipated in the fantasies of war films and comic strips. To expect this easy-going attitude to remain indifferent or uncritical towards German reunification and its consequences is unreasonable.

In both world wars, each nation turned the very characteristics it had most wanted to emulate into hateful abuse. The Germans, whose trade and industry owed everything to "Manchester liberalism", now sneered at the British as decadent, hypocritical misers. The British became persuaded that the nation of Beethoven and Einstein was now populated entirely by atavistic autocrats.

The division of Germany enabled the West Germans to profit from this Manichean image: they were the "good Germans", while the goose-stepping heirs of the Nazis were instantly recognisable in East Germany. A United Germany must reckon with the loss of this convenient diversion.

Germany can no longer expect the kid-glove treatment dictated by their allies' need to support them as the front-line of the West.

The future of the Soviet Union is uncertain, and the German relationship with Moscow remains of cardinal importance for the balance of power in the new Europe. If Russia retreats into nationalist introspection, the Germans will have no rivals for influence from the Danube to the Baltic. Though German trade is still Western-oriented, as it was in the 19th century, the markets of



the East are already attractive for German capital.

Well before reunification began more than a pious hope, the danger of "German megalo-mania" was the subject of debate in West German intellectual circles. Politicians like Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Bonn's foreign minister, began to assume a new,

messianic role as the saviours of the nations from the cold war.



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## GORBACHEV'S PARTY TRICK

The 28th congress of the Soviet Communist Party, originally convened by Mikhail Gorbachev in the hope of making the party the springboard for political reform, began with a remarkable outpouring of diehard resentment against Mr Gorbachev. If one man encapsulated the delegates' mood, it was Yegor Ligachev, whose denunciations of private property and the market economy and defence of Marxism-Leninism won him standing ovations. Yet his bid for the deputy leadership ended in humiliation, defeated one to five by Mr Gorbachev's nominee Vladimir Ivashko, a colourless apparatchik from the Ukraine who has resigned the republic's presidency to take the deputy's job.

The defeat of the hardline faction headed by Mr Ligachev, coupled with the resignation of Boris Yeltsin and the announced breakaway of the small reformist Democratic Platform, leaves the party more ideologically cohesive, but weaker and more manageable. Mr Gorbachev's decision to stay as general secretary is due less to optimism in the party's ability to regenerate itself, than to his calculation that it is still powerful. Its boss

How long that is true depends on two things: Mr Gorbachev's use of his new presidential powers, and developments in the soviets of the republics. He was forced to compromise on details, such as the deletion of the word "market" from the party's commission for economic reform. These were footnotes: this congress, for all the hostile rhetoric, approved by a large majority changes in the way Soviet power is exercised. Mr Gorbachev dressed them up as essential "for the authority of the party to grow", but in practice they will ease the party's relegation to the sidelines of policy-making.

The party nomenklatura still permeates industry and the bureaucracy, and ending that domination (and power to obstruct reforms) will require time. But the party has ceded much to the state in this, the first serious battle in the war for control of the country. The mayors of Moscow and Leningrad have resigned their party cards. For the first time, it is now possible for the Soviet Union to be governed without the Communist Party, through the presidential council, the government, and the Soviet congress of people's deputies.

The politburo has for some time ceased to be the undisputed power centre of the Soviet

Union. But this has now been underlined by the decision of Vladimir Kryuchkov, head of the KGB, and of two of Mr Gorbachev's closest and most astute allies, Aleksandr Yakovlev and the foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, to give up their seats. The politburo is expected to meet only about once a month – too infrequently to impinge on the presidential council's decisions. The central committee, the traditional power base of the apparatchiks, has also lost the keys to its power: the right to elect the politburo and the party leader now rests exclusively with the party congress, which Mr Gorbachev has proved his power to manipulate.

The party has not only lost its monopoly of power at the top, but at the level of party cells. The party will continue to organise in the KGB, the army and the factories – but other parties will in theory have similar rights. Radicals would have liked to abolish these cells, but a first step has been taken. There are already signs of grassroots contempt for the communists – factories have been busy disbanding the party cells – which can only be enhanced by this ending of their monopoly on political mobilisation. What these changes, taken together, mean is that people will now be able to rise to positions of power without depending on preferment through the party machine.

These are considerable gains for the reformers, even if they no more ensure multi-party democracy than do the decisions by Mr Yeltsin and most of the hundred or so members of the Democratic Platform to split away from the party. Grassroots defections from the party will accelerate following Mr Yeltsin's defection. Building a new party, or parties, is a different matter. The appointment yesterday of a noted hardliner as political chief of the armed forces demonstrates the determination of the party's power-brokers not to give up without a fight.

The paradox is that by deciding to continue to preside over the party he has skilfully begun to emasculate – a decision for which the radicals revile him – Mr Gorbachev may have given the democrats the space they need to build the foundations of an alternative, pluralistic, political structure. Yet by remaining at the head of a party which has, these past weeks, done everything to discredit itself with the Soviet electorate, he has taken a gamble with his own political career.

## MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE

London is in trouble and heading for more, according to the Henley Centre's forecast of the capital's likely prospects in the next decade. The Centre finds the capital's economy is out of balance, and too many of the common facilities, public transport, most obviously, inadequate for the load imposed. For these and other reasons, more and more companies have been moving their businesses away from London. Since its peak of nearly nine million, Greater London has declined to some 6.78 million today.

No longer is the capital the only metropolitan engine driving the country forward. London's loss has been the rest of Britain's gain. The balance between London and the provinces has shifted in the latter's favour. If a London depression automatically depressed the rest of the country, the prospect would be serious. If anything, the opposite is the case.

In the last five years 28 major companies have left London, 23 of them settling elsewhere in the southeast. Put off by the capital's congestion and high costs, they have gone in search of a better quality of life. The other big cities of Britain have at last started to compete.

Glasgow is making the most of its grandiose new title: "European city of culture". Birmingham, with its own Royal Ballet, exhibition centre and new £27 million concert hall, can hardly wait to become the Arts Council's first British "city of culture" next year. Cardiff, Inverness, Carlisle, Warrington, Northampton and Leeds are among some 30 other centres showing signs of prosperous redevelopment. Their success is due to imaginative local effort.

Vigorous public relations campaigns throughout the regions, in Wales and Scotland,

## OF PIKE AND MEN

At the behest of Hyde Park officials, anglers have netted some 40 prime pike from the Serpentine and moved them to a new residence in the Thames. Their purpose was to save ducklings from the pike and at the same time provide good sport on the river.

Mother Nature may have different ideas. An alternative outcome of this unwarranted interference is that the Serpentine could be over-run by ducks while the Thames will be systematically stripped of fish – except for 40 sleek and predatory monsters and their offspring. Who put the pike in the lake in the first place anyway? People play around with nature at their peril.

Not since Robert Burns ploughed up a mouse and worried his neighbours by starting a conversation with it, has mankind been so concerned about ecology. Unfortunately the capacity to cause upset has more than kept pace with those good intentions. Take the case of the gamekeepers in the West Midlands. They pumped a dead bird full of a banned pesticide to kill a fox who was gobbling up their pheasants. Their bag included not only a gundog but a rare red kite (one of 11 imported from Sweden to this country) and they paid for their misdeed in court. Brer Fox is presumably laughing fit to kill.

The beasts of the field have worked out their own pecking order. As long as nobody interferes, it works. A succession of mild winters means more greenly; but it also means more ladybirds to eat them. Cats catch small birds which pick up spiders who enmesh bluebottles whose maggots eat whatever is lying around. He who treads on an ant is standing on someone's lunch.

Man has not yet learnt his place in all this.

have brought domestic, as well as Japanese and American, investment. Nor is such a provincial drift confined to Britain. Madrid has its Barcelona; Rome its Milan; Bonn its Frankfurt, Munich and Hamburg; Berlin its Dresden and Leipzig; while Paris, less emphatically, its Lyons. A more even spread of prosperity and culture throughout a grossly over-centralised modern state should be welcomed. Opinion polls show that most people hanker after village life. Telecommuting – linking with city centres by modem rather than by motorway – will, the Henley Centre predicts, be common by the end of this century.

The naive reaction to this trend is for Londoners instantly to demand vast public expenditure to keep London big or make it bigger – as recommended by the Henley Centre. To be sure, there are specific improvements which London needs and which appear to have been overlooked in the recent aversion to metropolitan government. Londoners may lack the self-assurance of New Yorkers or Parisians, but most of them care enough about their city to be ashamed of its shabbiness and discomfit. In particular, the state of public transport in London and the fifth of its public spaces is a scandalous comment on one of Toryism's less appealing enthusiasms, private affluence amid public squalor.

But London has always benefited by the free flow of market forces, in people, in goods and services, in lifestyle and fashion. If there really is a drift away from the capital, so much the better for those left behind. If other cities are challenging London's prominence in culture, finance, transport and politics, well and good. Long live the competition is the best route to long live London.

When he spent all his time hunting down mammoth and clubbing them to death with flintstone axes, nature no doubt kept him in mind in all its planning. His behaviour was predictable: he killed only for food or clothing. Those creatures not fated for his menu or wardrobe could carry on their carnage undisturbed.

Nature must have been puzzled when man started to farm, keep pets, kill for sport, rescue ducks from pikes, or treat Swedish red kites like the Crown Jewels. Man's mistake was not to tell nature he had overruled it. The rabbits ate his crops, foxes stole his chickens and otters continued to take his fish – unaware that the odd-looking fellow in tweeds and wellingtons, standing 200 yards downstream in pouring rain was more or less in charge, or so he thought.

Nature will clearly require several millennia of mutation once again to get the better of mankind. Birds still overfly Italy in the spring, foxes still risk their necks in her runs. Rare British birds have yet to learn to build their nests beyond homo sapiens' reach, and up to 50,000 of their eggs are stolen every year, usually by grown men who would be more gainfully employed in spotting trains.

People feed pigeons (then complain when these proliferate); keep pet snakes (which escape among the runner beans); rear grouse then shoot them, send greyhounds coursing after hares. Their latest offer of a helping hand to nature is to save ducks from pike, successfully, and to save kites from foxes, less so. Sooner or later natural selection could catch up, but only if man would stop interfering. Otherwise the pike-proof duck, the fox-proof kite, will never evolve at all.

Man has not yet learnt his place in all this.

## Rumpus over Ridley puts the spotlight on Europe

From Mr J. A. McK. Holloway

Sir, Mr Ridley's remarks may clearly portray the true feelings of many of those people who fear continental European influence. Anyone who crosses the Channel will quickly recognise the greater level of improvements in infrastructure and prosperity over there relative to us.

Conversations with lawyers will reveal the existence of a level of protection of the individual greater than here, accompanied by a much easier and affordable system of access to legal remedies. Their education system and bureaucracy recognise the value of the technically trained so that their economies are more vibrant and forward-looking than ours.

Planning involving all important interests is a regular feature of the strategic political process over there and is not hampered by the same degree of bureaucratic secretiveness which is evident here.

I think my future, as an individual at least, is probably better protected by the EC than by representatives of the old aristocracies whose interests may lie in keeping hold of their own substantial share of the national cake.

Yours faithfully,  
J. A. MCK. HOLLOWAY,  
Hartlip's Orchard,  
Hartlip, Kent.

July 13.

From Mr J. O. May

Sir, For the Prime Minister to say, as she did in the House of Commons today, that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has unreservedly withdrawn his outrageous remarks in *The Spectator* interview, and that he had not reflected the Government's views, is simply not good enough.

That a senior cabinet minister should publicly make such insulting and impudent remarks about this country's two main partners in the Community and get away with an apology would inevitably be regarded by large numbers of people, here and abroad, as proof that HM Government is deeply divided in its attitude towards meaningful cooperation with our Community partners.

Yours faithfully,  
J. O. MAY,  
6 Millidge Close;  
Cobham, Surrey.

July 12.

From Mr Graham Kelly

Sir, Mr Ridley's comments to *The Spectator* were shocking enough, but even more distressing were some of the comments I have heard on the radio, which were, at best, evenly divided between

have brought domestic, as well as Japanese and American, investment. Nor is such a provincial drift confined to Britain. Madrid has its Barcelona; Rome its Milan; Bonn its Frankfurt, Munich and Hamburg; Berlin its Dresden and Leipzig; while Paris, less emphatically, its Lyons. A more even spread of prosperity and culture throughout a grossly over-centralised modern state should be welcomed. Opinion polls show that most people hanker after village life. Telecommuting – linking with city centres by modem rather than by motorway – will, the Henley Centre predicts, be common by the end of this century.

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## Quebec's future

From Professor Robertson Davies

Sir, As a Canadian of long descent I think I speak for many of my kind when I say how deeply distressed we should be if the present breakdown in constitutional discussions led to a separation of Quebec from the rest of Canada. On two previous occasions, at the time of the American Revolution, and later during the war of 1812, Quebec was given a chance to leave Canada and refused to do so. We hope that if such a decision were put to the whole population of the province, rather than to the people in a few large cities, it would be declined.

Canadians as a whole value Quebec as a part of our complex society because of its individuality and outlook, and for the invaluable contribution it makes to our country's artistic life, to single out only one element that makes Quebec important to us. Disagreements between old friends should not bring about permanent ruptures.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERTSON DAVIES  
(Founding Master),  
Massey College,  
University of Toronto,  
4 Devonshire Place,  
Toronto M5S 2E1, Canada.

July 3.

## Language teaching

From Sir Horace Phillips

Sir, In the context of the current debate on foreign-language teaching in Britain (leading article, June 27; letters, July 3, 12) it may be of interest to know how things are done at Bilkent University in Ankara, where I am a lecturer in diplomacy and international relations.

English is the medium of instruction there in all subjects except Ottoman constitution and law. Knowledge of the language in the student body of nearly 5,000

those appalled by the remarks and those who thought that they were a true reflection of British sentiment towards the Community in general and the Germans in particular.

Having lost a brother in the war and working as I do for a Community institution, I am well-qualified to understand both points of view. What I cannot understand, or condone, is the narrow-mindedness of people who cannot see the fundamental reality of today – that no nation in the Community could survive economically outside it.

Britain is fortunate to be a member of a club which is growing in importance and stature every day and it behoves a government minister to level schoolboy jibes either at another member or at the duly appointed officers of the club.

Regarding Mr Ridley's remark that the mark is likely to remain strong because of German "habits" – how right he is. Once upon a time the pound could be relied on because of British "habits" and I, for one, would be delighted to see their return.

Yours faithfully,  
W. KINGS,  
Am Eckbusch 55a,  
D-5600 Wuppertal 1,  
West Germany.

July 13.

the country is a reluctant European. (I almost wrote "we", but after so long in the heart of Europe I cannot identify with this feeling).

Do people not understand that our future lies in a strong Europe? The continued prestige that Mrs Thatcher so longs for for Britain can only be maintained in the long term by everybody committing themselves to a united continent.

Yours faithfully,

W. KINGS,  
Am Eckbusch 55a,  
D-5600 Wuppertal 1,  
West Germany.

July 13.

From Mr John Stobart

Sir, Might it not be that Mr Ridley, in his recent interview, was voicing the feelings and even convictions of many thousands of people in this country who have memories and knowledge of more than the last 40 years, and are thereby becoming increasingly uneasy by some of the recent trends in Europe?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN STOBART,  
24 Finsborough Road, SW10.

July 13.

From Mr J. L. Nightingale

Sir, As a boy I was taught the following verse:  
Boys flying kites haul in their white wings.  
You can't do that when you are flying words.

But God Himself can't stop them when they're said.

Yours truly,  
J. LESLIE NIGHTINGALE,  
1 Haddon Close,  
Rushden, Northamptonshire.

July 12.

From Miss M. H. Coffman

Sir, I support Nicholas Ridley, temperate or not. We were asked whether we wished to join a common market for our goods, not a common country to which we would have to surrender our freedom and individuality.

Yours faithfully,  
M. COFFMAN,  
Crown Cottage,  
12 Leicester Road,  
Groby, Leicestershire.

July 13.

From Mr Alan Curnow

Sir, Nicholas Ridley is a sanctimonious hypocrite, an arrogant nonentity, a time-serving beneficiary of patronage and a down-and-out musical disaster area.....

On reflection, I unreservedly withdraw these remarks.

Yours politically,  
ALAN CURNOW,  
37 Cecil Road,  
Norwich, Norfolk.

July 12.

From Mr William Kings

Sir, I am a British subject who works for a major British company and has lived in West Germany since 1974. Over the years I have seen Britain stand up, on several occasions, for principles which have, in the long term, proved to be right.

On the other hand, there has been a consistent impression that

As we approach 1992, businesses will increasingly require access to skilled labour and will be less able to afford the costs of unproductive imprisonment and rising crime. Businesses could and should play a part in improving employment opportunities within prisons. In particular, there may be a role for training and enterprise councils in exploring ways in which the work and training offered in prisons in their areas can be improved with private sector assistance.

The Woolf enquiry offers a unique opportunity for a thorough examination of prison regimes. Let us now hope that the provision of meaningful work for inmates is one of its first recommendations for action.

Yours faithfully,<



## ANNOUNCEMENTS &amp; PERSONAL

If the first piece of bread is given to God then the whole loaf is his also; and of the two a tree are offered to the God the branches are his. Romans 11:16 G.N.B.

## BIRTHS

ARMSTRONG - On June 24th, Justine, Maternity Hospital, London, to Ann and Tom, a son, Thomas John, a brother for Beth and Richard.

CAMPBELL-LAMERTON - On July 12th, at The Portland Hospital, Mary Louise (née Thornberry) and her partner, a daughter, Olivia Rose, older to Harry and Alice.

COOKRIDGE - On July 12th, to Nicola (née Irish) and Stephen, a son, David Timothy, a brother for Tom and John, a brother for Beth and Richard.

COTTON - On July 12th, in Tadworth, to Carol and Richard, a son, Alexander William Robert, a brother for Tom and Jonathan.

GRAMPH - On July 11th, to Yvonne (née Schreinemakers) and Peter, a son, Joseph Charles.

DAVIDSON - On July 10th 1990, to Phillipa (née Stacey) and Colin, a son, Edward John, a brother for Harry and Alice.

GARRETT - On July 12th, to Sarah (née Miles) and Simon, a son, David Michael, a brother for Tom and John, a brother for Beth and Richard.

HARRIS - On July 12th, at The Portland Hospital, Louise (née Thornberry) and her partner, a daughter, Olivia Rose, older to Harry and Alice.

COOKRIDGE - On July 12th, to Nicola (née Irish) and Stephen, a son, David Timothy, a brother for Tom and John, a brother for Beth and Richard.

FIRTH - On July 12th, at St George's Hospital, to Karen (née Dryden) and Jonathan, a son, Christopher.

GATLIFF - On July 8th 1990, to Sarah (née Miles) and Simon, a son, George Aubrey, a brother for Tom and Jonathan.

HORN - On July 12th to Laura and, a daughter, Meriel Evelyn.

LEEDS - On July 12th 1990, to Sylvia (née Broadfoot) and Robert, a son, Benjamin Robert. The hospital staff were overwhelmed to have our grateful thanks.

LUCKETT - On Tuesday July 10th 1990 at High Wycombe 10.30 am, Brian, a daughter, Lucy.

MCREADY-EVANS - On June 26th 1990, to Kerrie and Alan, a precious daughter Jessica, a sister for Jake.

PETRETT - On July 5th, to Alan and, a son, Alexander Chrysanthus, a brother for Jonathan and Gemma.

SEYOUR - On July 9th 1990, to Eleanor (née Reid) and Tim, a son, Robert Graham.

SIMPSON - On Friday July 6th, to Tracey (née Woodley) and Lawrence, a son, Harry.

SMART - On July 12th, to Charlotte (née Ducas) and Tim, a son, Thomas Frederick. Featherside to the staff of The Eastgate Maternity Unit.

SMITH - On July 12th, at Fembury Hospital, to Geraldine (née Taylor) and Robert, a son, Stephen, and John, a brother for Geoffrey.

WARTSBURG-PITT - On June 29th, to Marlene (née Kelleher) and Simon, a daughter, Katherine, Brittany.

## DEATHS

CARRETTUS - On July 12th, Hugh Weller, 82, of Bexley, died leaving husband for 64 years of Volante and dear father of John and Patricia. Formerly of Farnham, Surrey. English Funeral Services at Farnham Crematorium, Leatherhead. Tuesday July 10th at 4 pm. No flowers please.

COOPER - On July 12th, to Princess Alice, Hospice, Esher, c/o James & Thomas Ltd, 17/19 High Street, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3AL.

DORSON - On Wednesday July 11th 1990, peacefully, Cordelia Clara (née Pritchard), 96, formerly of Penzance. Funeral Service at 11.30 am on Tuesday July 17th at Penzance, followed by interment in churchyard (or men only). Family flowers only. Donations to Barncoose Hospital, Penzance. c/o The Funeral Director H.N. Peake, Tocarmel Newlyn, Penzance. tel: (0736) 62781.

FRASER - On July 12th, to Mrs. W. G. Fraser, 86, of Fife.

GRANT - On July 12th, to Mrs. G. Grant, 86, of Fife.

HARRIS - On July 12th, to Mrs. G. Harris, 86, of Fife.

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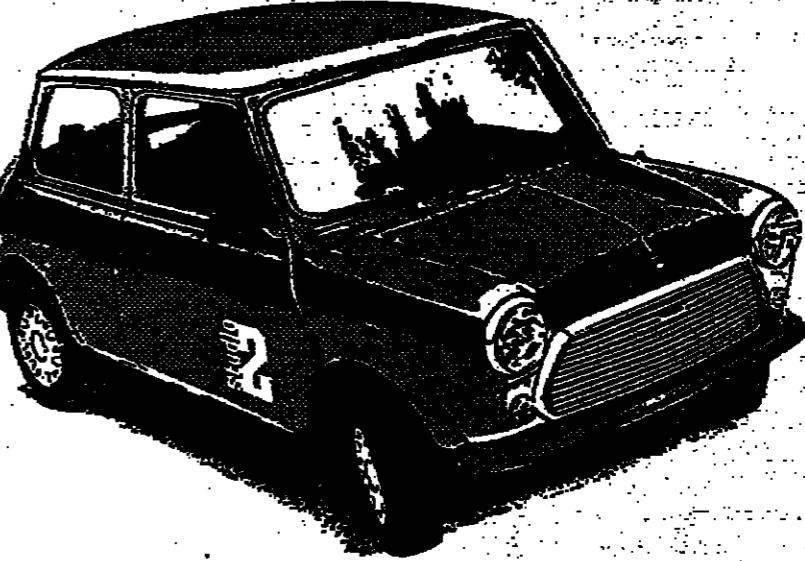
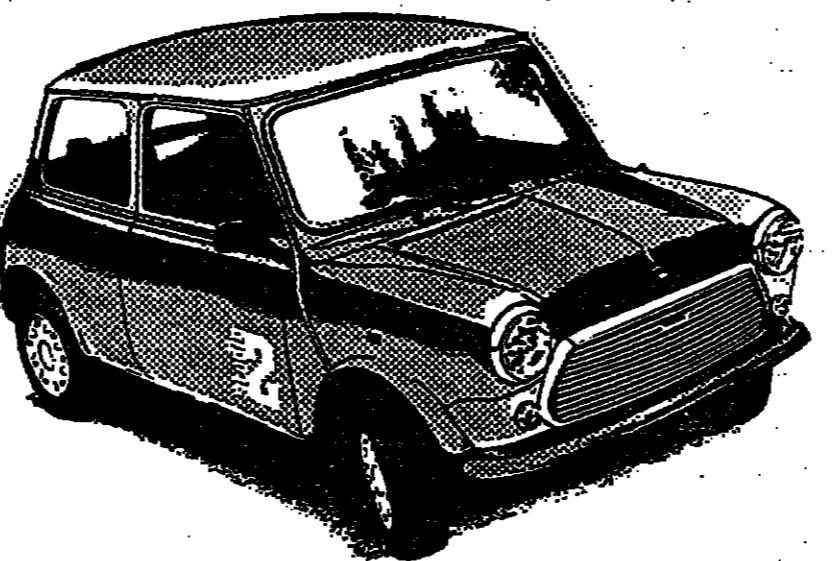
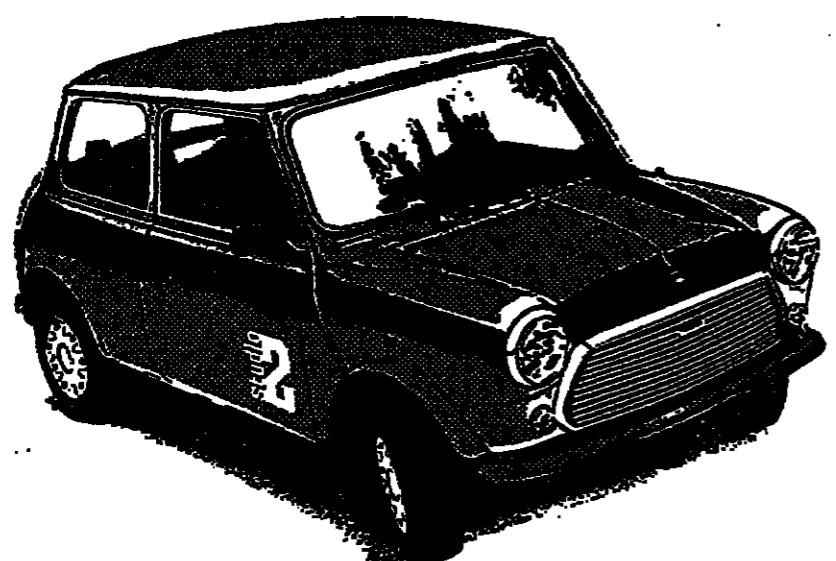
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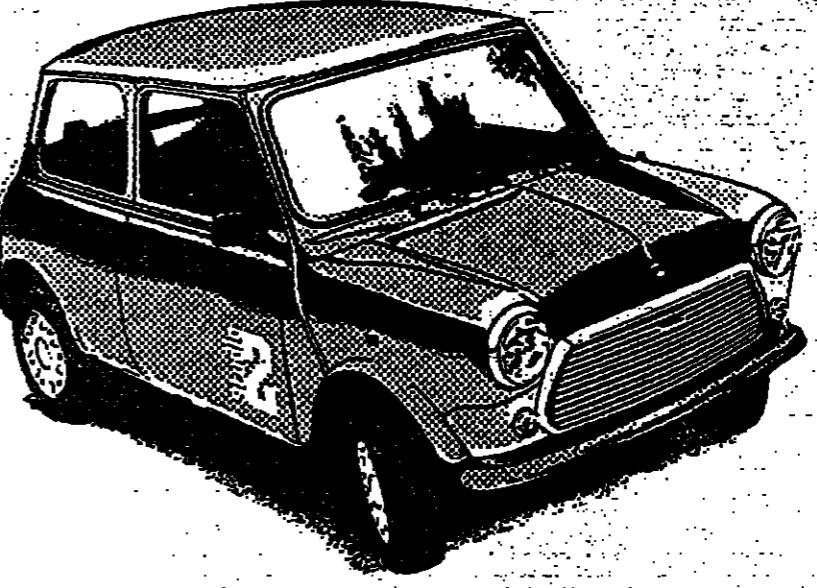
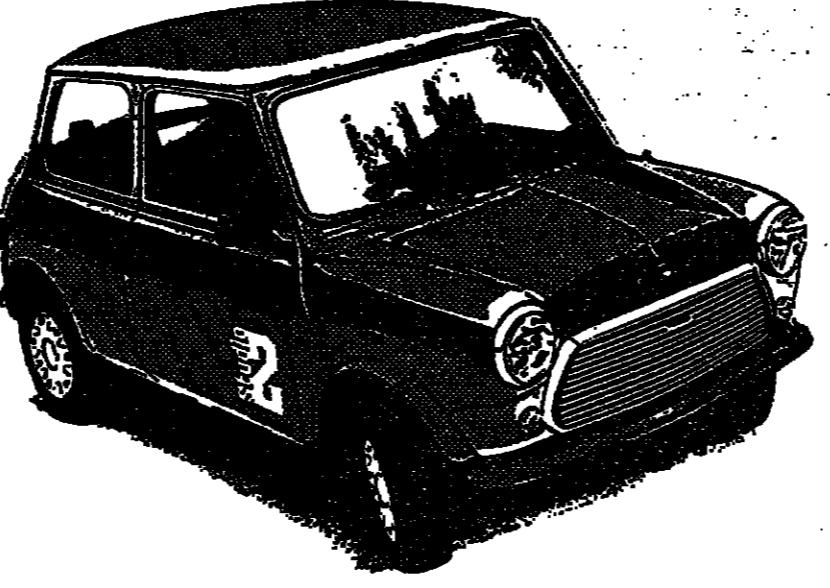
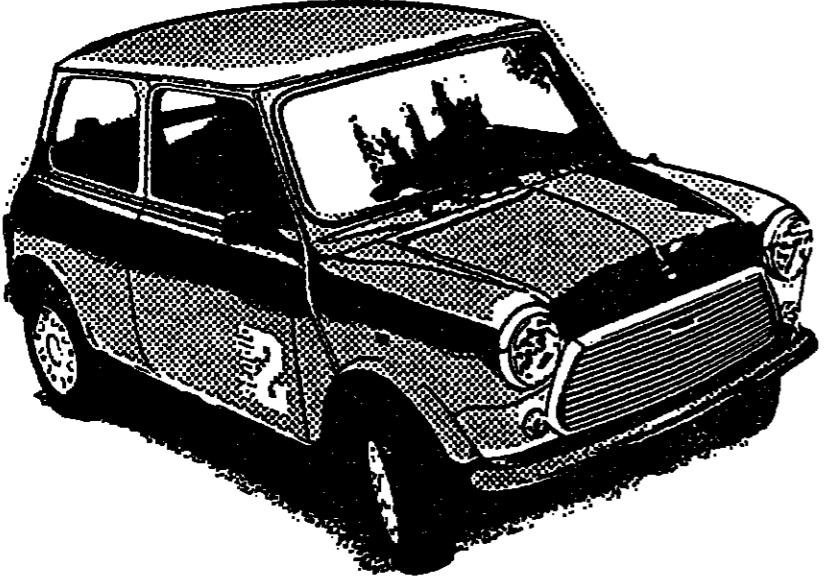
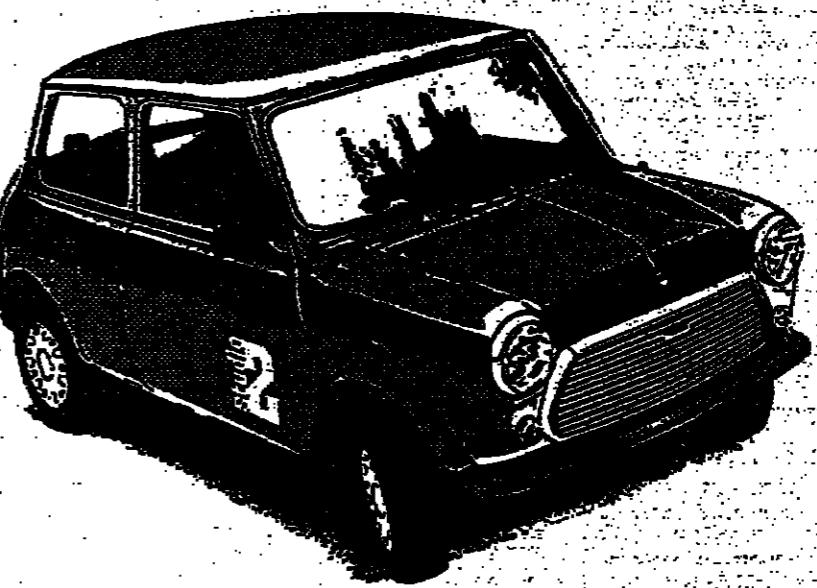
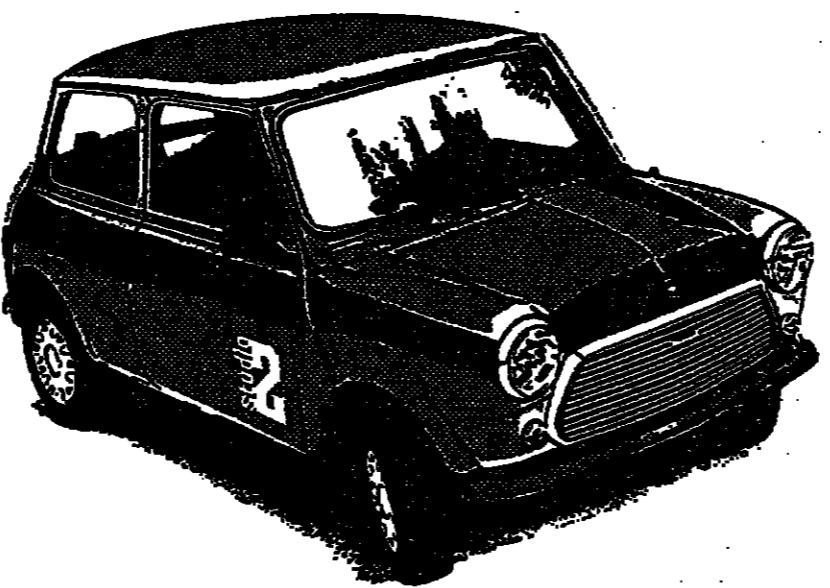
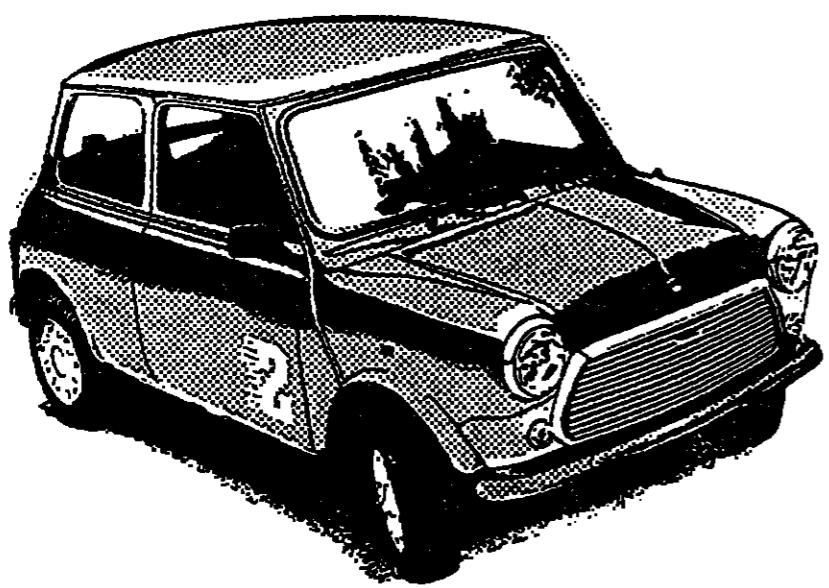
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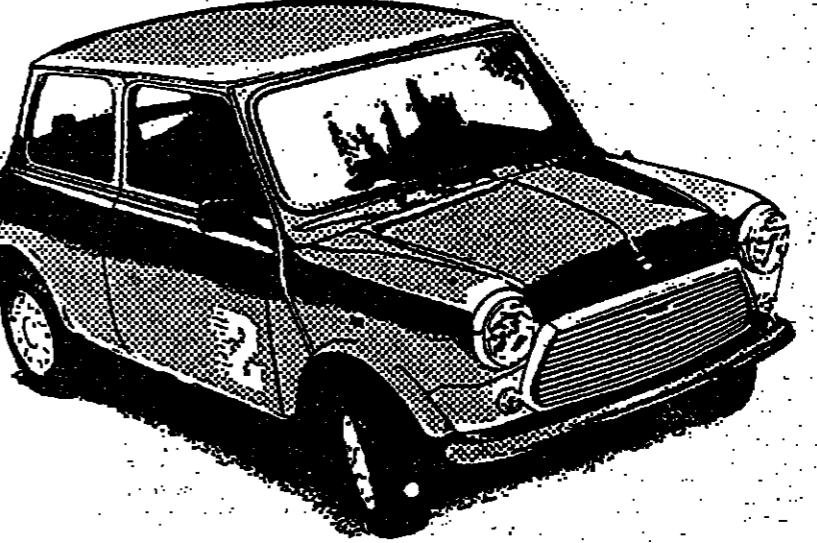
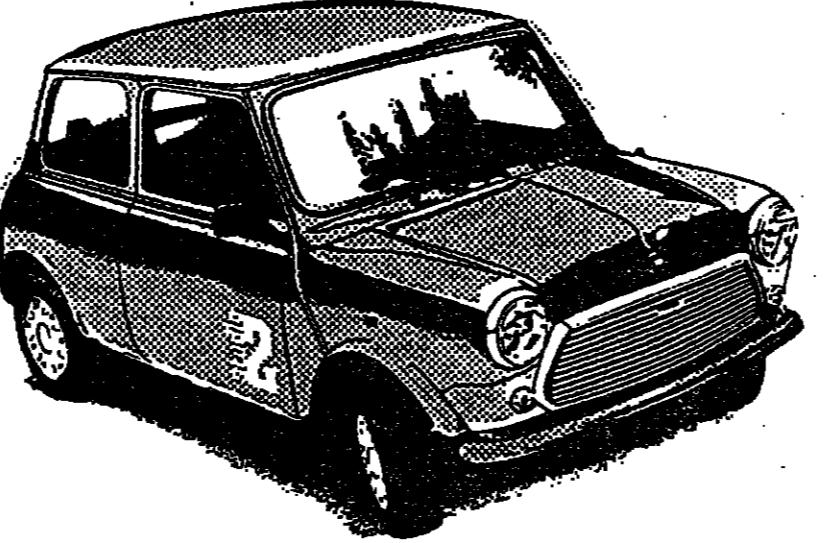
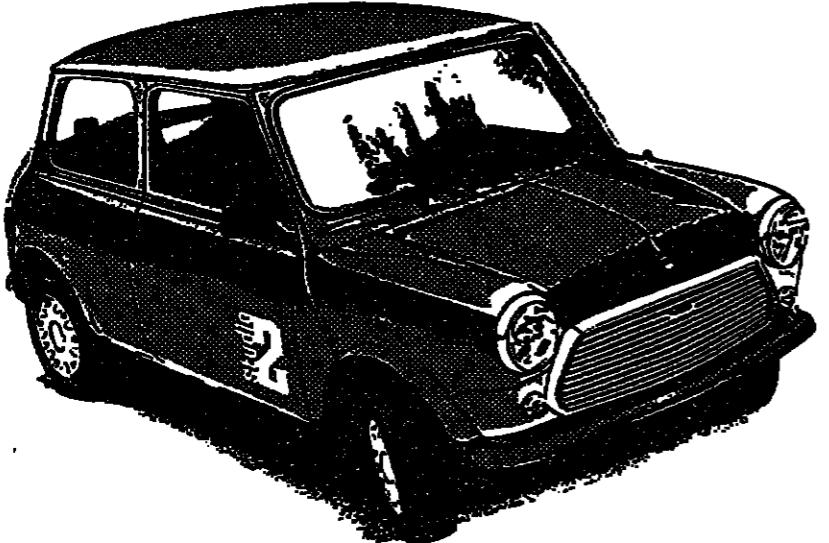
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Farmer's Diary: Paul Heiney

## Alice joins the labour party

WHEN I woke from a deep sleep with the sound of bells in my ears, I assumed the strain of farmwork was beginning to show. True, we had had a busy couple of weeks, killing weeds amid the turnips and the kale. With chemicals it would have been done in a day, but I prefer a horse-drawn hoe. It is effective and pollutes nothing, being no more than a blade that the horse drags between the rows of plants to chop off the weeds just below the surface.

The snag is that it involves two men (or one man and a deeply reluctant wife) and a lot of walking. If you are the unlucky one who gets to lead the horse, you are effectively standing next to a perspiring 10 Kw radiator; you leave the field sodden with your own sweat and a few gallons of the horse's. So I assumed, hearing bells in the night, that the hoeing had drained me.

Then the chime rang out again. It was half past two. Wide awake now, I flew to the bedroom window. In the moonlight I could just make out the pregnant shape of Alice, our Large Black pig, making frenzied music with her feeding bowls.

Pig troughs are no lightweight affairs: they are cast-iron rings which it takes two men to lift. But Alice has been blessed with a power-packed snout, and it is nothing for her to slide her muzzle under one of these hefty troughs and, with a flick of her head, heave it in the air. When it comes down to earth, spinning, it sounds like the very bells of hell. From the bedroom window I loudly advised Alice to cut out the Quasimodo impersonation, and went back to sleep.

Of course, pregnancy does funny things to women, and pigs. Next morning I found that as well as revising her dining arrangements, she had, also done a thorough spring-clean of the sty, moving the clean straw out into the sun and leaving the grubby stuff in a heap near the spot where she dungs. "Daff old pig," I muttered into her floppy black ear, pouring her breakfast into the relocated trough.

A few hours later, we had 11 piglets. First there was nothing, and then in no time at all there were 11 shiny black squealing creatures that slid from their mother with the greatest of ease, shrugged off their cling-film and staggered in the direction of a

birthing pen with determination that brought a tear to my eye. It all took place nonchalantly, out in the sunshine on the clean straw. There was no fuss, except what I made myself as I ran to tell the children. "There's two!" I cried. Then back to the house. "Three!" I sprinted from farmyard to house bringing news of the births. By the end I was bursting with pride and panting more than Alice.

I rang the owner of the boat to tell him the good news, and he was delighted. I remembered picking her up after she had been six weeks on his farm, and not knowing quite how to phrase the question which would elicit from him whether or not a mating had taken place. "How have things, er, been?" I enquired. He considered. "I'd say he'd stocked her well, my old boy. Yep. Stocked her well, he has."

As soon as she was home I marked the calendar. Pigs have a convenient gestation period of three months, three weeks and three days. We now know that the happy union took place on her second night. It's lucky that black pigs can't blush.

Some might consider it bad pig management to have been taken so much by surprise by the birth, but I had been relying on the advice of an elderly neighbour. He had been positive: "She won't be having them little 'uns yet. Look. She ain't appled-up." He pointed to herudder. "Yer know what I mean?" he asked, and cupped his hands. "Appled-up. She ain't appled-up yet." She never was. Hence my failure to interpret her musical, midnight nest-building session.

He did not need me, anyway, that day. There was a brief crisis when one piglet got caught beneath its mother's bulk as she turned. I was tempted to dive in and help, but as soon as the little one shrieked, Alice rolled the other way. It was the only moment when I thought I might have to play midwife, which was just as well as I had been rather dreading it, ever since I'd read a 1920s book which said: "There are few problems in farrowing that cannot be solved by good humour and a plentiful supply of lard."

But we needed neither. Alice did it her way, unaided and with great dignity. She has done us proud. Let the bells ring out.



Pitcullo restored: businessman Angus Grossart says: "Privacy, seclusion and independence make you free from want: the true form of wealth."

## King of his own castle

Home from home: Angus Grossart

**T**he flag of St Andrew will fly proudly over Pitcullo Castle this week when Angus McFarlane McLeod

Grossart, dubbed "the cleverest business brain in Scotland", welcomes a small party of guests for the Open Championship at the Royal and Ancient golf course at St Andrews. Proudly, because he has "slaved away" to restore the castle, once a haven in a troubled part of Scotland.

Pitcullo is now a quite different retreat. In the grounds, two children's swings, suspended from tall trees, sway gently in the breeze. A distinctly contemporary Wendy house is dwarfed by the castle's high, thick walls. This is where the Grossart family spends most weekends.

Mr Grossart, who founded Scotland's first merchant bank in 1969, normally has a hectic schedule flying to New York, where he is on the board of Alexander and Alexander, the second-largest insurance broker in the world, and spending two days in London.

"People do wonder about why they are in London, when I can turn up in the City at ten past nine, having flown down from Edinburgh, and leave the meeting at the same time as most people

there and be back in Edinburgh in time for dinner," he says.

His office is a two-minute walk from his elegant townhouse in Edinburgh, and 50 minutes by car from the castle, where he has spent many weekends over the past 12 years on its restoration.

He has been intrigued by early Scottish architecture for 15 years, visiting more than 200 castles that were intact, had been restored or were capable of restoration. "To restore a castle seemed the ultimate entrepreneurial challenge, and I always had in mind that if I could find somewhere appropriate I would buy it," he says.

He was a keen golfer, so what

better than a castle near the Royal and Ancient. He had played a lot of competitive golf before starting the bank. He was a scratch golfer for seven years and a former captain of the Scottish Youth international team. But in the bank's first ten years, there was little chance to play. And he has spent so many weekends on the castle's restoration that his golf has suffered. "The irony is that I was looking for somewhere that would enable me to relax," he says.

He bought the castle the day after he saw it, without a survey, paying a premium to keep it off the market. "I spent a year working out what I wanted to do. A year after starting work, one wing was gutted by fire, and I had to start again."

He married in 1978, just before the fire. His wife, Gay, shared his interest in restoration. She was on the executive council of the National Trust for Scotland for many years, and had been curator at Hopetoun House, near Edinburgh, the seat of the Linlithgow.

**P**art of the fun has been finding and going to know traditional craftsmen and their skills. Mr Grossart says: "I ended up with four or five craftsmen capable of doing any of the work in the original building. They were great characters and I learnt a lot about the castle features through them."

"We have restored Pitcullo using stone, oak and iron, so the work should last another 400 years – immensely rewarding in a world, particularly the financial world, where everything has such immediacy."

The early years of the restoration were particularly physical. We had to do a lot of probing to find out what features had been covered up, and remove a lot of patching and faulty materials. By opening everything up for inspection, we discovered a number of hidden original features."

Work on the castle's structure is now almost complete, and the fitting out is under way. He has put in 14 painted ceilings. Wooden carvings, collected over a number of years, are being incorporated into paneling for beds. Bedspreads and hangings are drawn from a large archive of old textiles, and iron hinges and locks on the heavy doors come from his collection of metal work. He is adding some finer touches to the exterior, including Latin inscriptions on the dormer finials. He briefly studied Latin poetry at Glasgow University. "Aequum memento . . ." are the first words from an ode by Horace. "Always remember to keep a cool (mind in difficulties). . . ."

Another, "Hocum munus nobis para," means "death comes to me today, to you tomorrow, (why therefore should we care)?"

Mr Grossart hopes to introduce a formal garden. "Gay is quite knowledgeable about gardening. We are gradually restoring the holly hedges, which were typical of the 17th century. We have also been restoring the hill on which the castle stands. It would be interesting to have a professional excavation of the hill."

"The earliest written records of

the castle date back to the time of Robert the Bruce in the early 1300s, but it is certain that the site was fortified before that," Mr Grossart says. Above all, he is happy to have more time to enjoy the privacy, seclusion and sense of independence which Pitcullo affords. "These are the things I value above all else. They make me free from want, and that is the true form of wealth."

The castle's loft has now become a playroom for their seven-year-old daughter. "Flure has had a very normalising effect on all our activities. A child's needs are fairly ordinary and basic, but you have to give them a lot of priority."

When not at Pitcullo, Saturdays

are often spent visiting art galleries in Edinburgh. Mr Grossart chairs the trustees of the National Galleries of Scotland, the Scottish Gallery of Modern Art and the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. He has also built up his own collection of paintings and decorative objects.

Next year, he will make a more

serious attempt at golf. He has no

regular partner: "I turn up and play with whoever I meet. It's nice to be spontaneous, when your business life is so structured."

ALASTAIR GULD

Feather report

## The dying days of birdsong

IT IS good to hear birdsong again. After a month in Italy you begin to forget what it sounds like, for Italy is a silent land. In four weeks of traveling all over the country, the only songbird I set ears on was a single chaffinch. From Palermo to Udine, by way, naturally, of Assisi, Italy annually celebrates a silent spring.

Silent, but for the blast of shotguns. *L'uomo e cacciatore* man is a hunter. D.H. Lawrence brutally mocked the tradition of Italian hunters in an essay with that title, writing of these intrepid types stalking the woods with their bags full of bloody goldfinches and dying thrushes. The slaughter is part of Italian life.

The main squares of the cities are filthy with pigeons; fed, encouraged and cherished, considered, for some baffling reason, photogenic. Foreign and Italian tourists stand covered by pecking hordes of grey birds while the cameras click away delightedly.

Away from the wonders of pigeonkind, birds are killed by the million. The slaughter is sanctioned by law and custom. The hunters kill not just songbirds, but migrating birds of prey, birds for which Italy has an international responsibility.

This is not merely horrible, it is a crime against international conservation. Predators operate on a smaller population base than prey species, which is obvious enough when you think of it. That makes them particularly vulnerable to direct persecution.

Members of Lipu, the Italian conservation organisation, are routinely attacked by hunters. These inrepid birds do not actually attempt to spoil the

most wonderful set of laws that could be devised for them. They are immune from laws of trespass: the law permits a hunter to go where he pleases and to gun down anything he fancies. For a man with a gun, the legal rights of property have no meaning, and the moral questions of conservation no existence.

A birder with a pair of binoculars has no such freedom. The law's partiality towards hunters is resented, but the combination of landowners and conservationists was not enough to win the day of the referendum.

CONSERVATIONISTS tend to seek silver linings; there is no point in the opposite attitude. It is clear that there are enough people opposed to the shooting laws to have some kind of political clout, even if this was not to be decisive on the day of the referendum.

But the weapons industry has clout of its own, clout that is measured more in terms of fire than outrage. Gun people like lots of guns; there is money to be made from such obsessions. In the US, the strongest pressure for the right to bear arms comes, albeit indirectly, from the arms industry. The same applies in Italy.

This is the result of an international disgrace, and one that attracts increasing international disquiet. *L'uomo e cacciatore* indeed! How many birds are killed every year so that Italians can prove their virility? Ah, but you're not a real man, are you – not unless you have carried, the day in savage, one-to-one conflict with that legend of ferocity, the blood-thirsty, man-eating chaffinch.

SIMON BARNES



shooting, they merely monitor it. For this, they have been assaulted, and their vehicles have been damaged and burned.

On the Sunday before the World Cup began, Italy held a referendum on hunting. The vote was overwhelmingly against the hunting laws as they stand. Unfortunately the referendum is not binding. It required 50 per cent of the electorate, voting one way or the other, to make it binding. It does not take a majority to work out how to fail it. The hunting lobby simply boycotted the referendum.

As a result, 43 per cent of the electorate turned out, which was good, but not good enough. Of these, 90 per cent voted on the side of conservation. It was a victory, yes, but not a decisive one. The next spring will be as silent as the one before.

The hunters continue to enjoy

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MENCAP

MEMORIAL FEEDEX LONDON, ENGLAND



Breeding

## Deer are the new darlings

ALASDAIR Darroch says: "You don't farm deer, you farm with deer. If they are not happy they don't thrive." He has 500 of them on 400 acres near Witney, Oxfordshire, and also in Leicestershire. Most are the familiar red, with a scattering of fallow deer, the spotted, lighter-coloured, Bamfins, lookalikes.

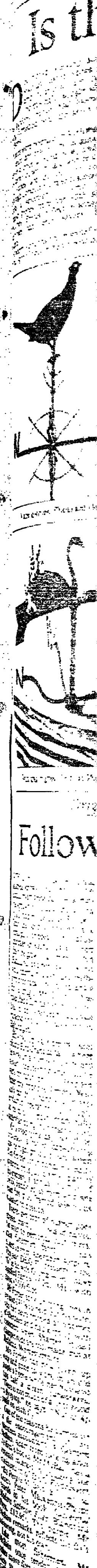
Happy herds of deer from Inverness to Devon are making Britain's 500 deer farmers equally happy. Inevitably, the future over bovine spongiform encephalitis (BSE) has had its effect on beef sales, and now venison producers are being paid £1 to £1.50 per pound more than the wholesale prices paid for beef. Venison steaks, which tend to sell for £5.65 per lb, will start building up again in the shops next month.

Mr Darroch, aged 33, saw Eden coming while doing a degree in agriculture at Edinburgh University, even though his family is originally from Jura on the west coast of Scotland, where the problems lay in keeping deer out, not fencing them in.

"People who might not approve of deer farming generally change their minds when they see animals managed to a high standard," he says.

Meat sold by the British Deer Producers' Society maintains standards of production which do not permit the use of hormones or growth promoters. Animals are fed only on grass and other natural foods.

Imported deer from the Continent continually improve breed-



# Is the answer blowing in the wind?

**D**ecorative working accessories such as weather vanes, sundials and fountains are becoming increasingly sought-after now that gardens, patios and balconies are being furnished with the same verve as kitchens.

Vanes were popular in Victorian times, but there are few of the original, heavy cast-iron ones around now, and quite a few came down in last winter's storms. Old vanes are difficult to come by, although London's Crane Kalman gallery stocks a selection of American and English pieces from the 18th and 19th centuries. Prices reflect scarcity: some examples can fetch several hundred pounds.

Modern versions are in metallised zinc or rust-proof steel in traditional designs —

cockrels, foxes and horses, for example — or they can be commissioned to suit a particular property. Oliver Cero, director of Brookbrae, the garden hardware firm, says: "Vanes are an eye-catching way to individualise a home and people use their imagination and wit when they commission orders. For example, we have made a vane shaped like a potter for a property called Kiln House, a bull beside water for Bullswater House, and a fish with initials for a Mrs Carp. A yachtsman asked for a copy of his boat. We have even produced a gold-leafed Alsatian dog."

"Our designs are created by the sculptor Edwin Russell, who is a director of our family company. He works from sketches and photographs or visits the client's house. It is important to gear the proportions of a design to the building.

Vanes look particularly good on an end gable or on the lower roofs of stables or outbuildings, but you should ask a builder to fit them to ensure they won't stick."

Brookbrae can provide the whole service from concept to fitting. A special order is likely to cost at least £450, although choosing from the company's standard range costs a little less. Arrows, flags, cars, horses, ships, witches, huntsmen, runners and bowlers are among the standard designs available from £14.

Elsewhere, flags, for £290, ships, £520, cockrels, £360 and hunting scenes, £350 (all plus VAT) are among the various styles which can be ordered from Renland Forge, while Rusticraft's stan-

dard range, finished in black paint, includes Father Time, £149.50, and an Alsatian dog, £102.50 (prices include VAT and delivery). Anyone preferring their own design might contact artist-blacksmith Giles Blakeley, who works to commission at his Sussex forge. Recent projects have included bats, hawks, cats, dogs, Viking ships and dragons, each costing £200-£300. His vanes are three-dimensional rather than flat silhouettes.

Tessanna Hoare also makes to commission and has recently completed orders for a llama, rook, beaver, otter, whale and feather. Made of mild or stainless steel, the vanes are available in black, white or gilded finishes, or they can be hand-painted in bright colours like traditional bargeware. She provides a detailed drawing (£25) for clients to

approve before she starts her work.

The Conran Shop, in London, stocks cockrels and foxes in black-painted steel at £49.50 each.

NICOLE SWENGELEY

• Crane Kalman Gallery, 17a Sloane Street, London SW1X 9QG (071-235 2464)

• Brookbrae, 53 St Leonard's Road, London SW14 7NQ (081-876 9238)

• Renland Forge, London Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire (0296 210212)

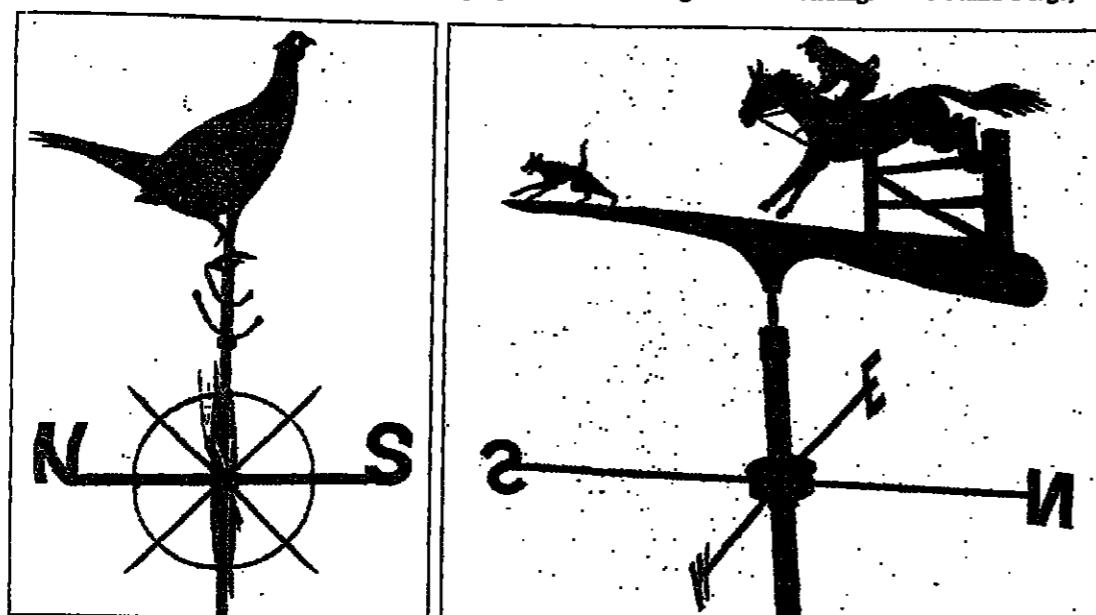
• Rusticraft, 17a Burton Street, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (0664 69965)

• Giles Blakeley, Tanners Lodge Forge, Ballyard, 3rd Lane, Mark Cross, East Sussex (0893 3239)

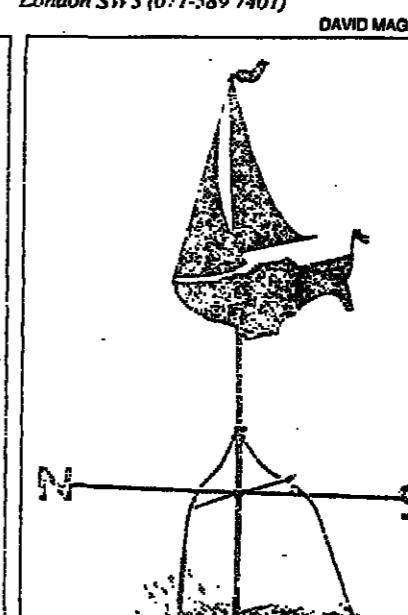
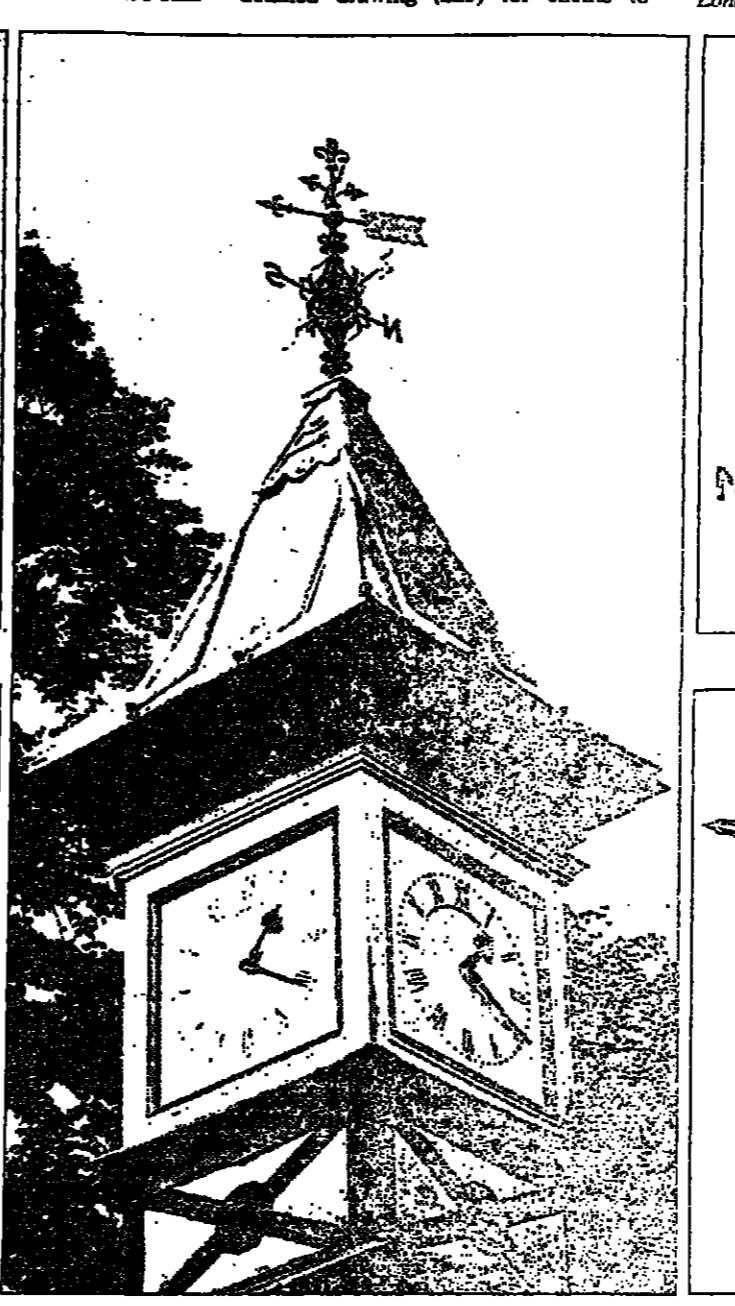
• Tessanna Hoare (information) Flat 1, 28 Floral Street, London WC2 (071-371 6903 or 071-536 5202)

• The Conran Shop, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-589 7401)

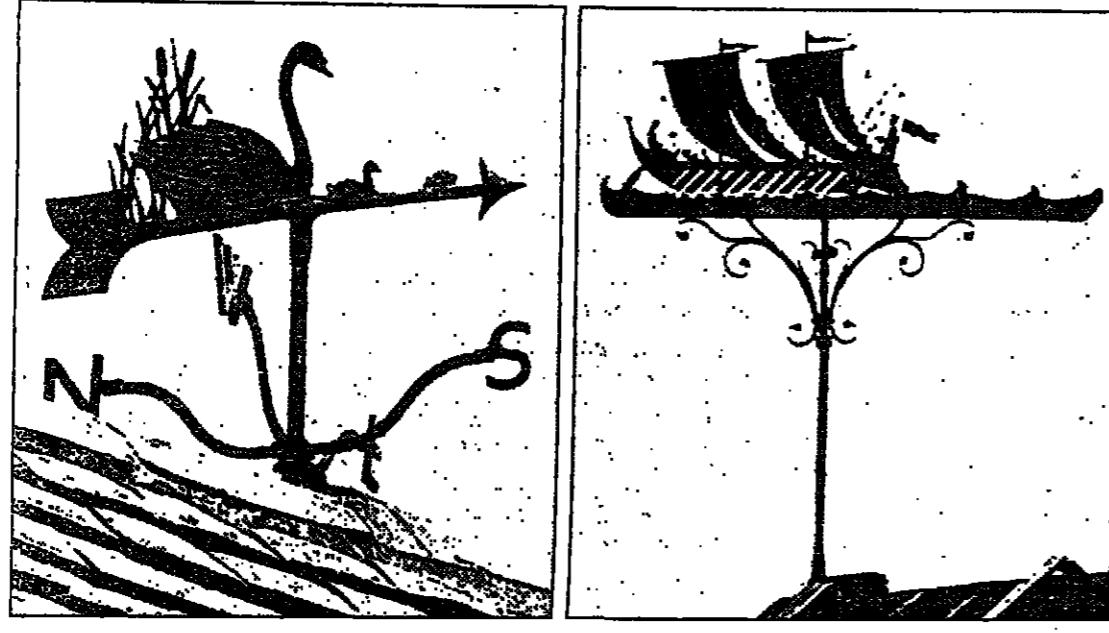
DAVID MAGNUS



Vane glories: Pheasant (left) at Bells Yew Green, East Sussex, and foxhunting at nearby Eridge

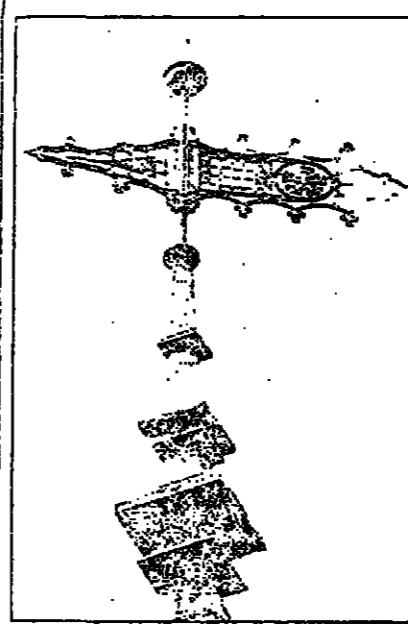


Sailing boat, Chiswick, London



Swan and cygnet (left) at Pond House, Wadhurst, and Viking ship at Hadlow Down, East Sussex

Fleur-de-lis at Wadhurst College for Girls, East Sussex



Gate above Holy Trinity, Eridge

Originals: Douglas Forbes, fly-tier

## Follow that fly, cabbie

WITH a bit of luck — and, goodness knows, you need it on Scottish rivers these days — someone, somewhere, is catching a fish on a fly tied by Douglas Forbes. Ideally, the Scottish fly-tier is a hirsute gillie stripped to his plus-four braces knocking out a dozen flies by the glow of a dram in his Highland hut and ben (two rooms with a concrete block-house bathroom at the back). Inconveniently for the image, Mr Forbes has never lifted a fishing rod in his life, lives in an Aberdeen council house and is not even that keen on Highland glens.

His workshop is the driver's seat of a blue Ford Granada taxi, where he works on a home-made board hooked to the steering wheel as he waits for fares on the Hadden Street rank opposite Jimmy Wilson's bar. It is hardly a mass-production operation, although, as he says, it pays marginally better than doing the horses — just.

On a good tying day, which is, conversely, a rotten cab-driving day, he might produce two dozen flies. On the other hand, his daily contribution is just a small part of his company's annual output of 30,000 hand-tied salmon and sea trout flies, plus framed selections mounted on hessian.

Twenty per cent of output goes abroad, mainly to Scandinavia, but most to personal customers, often fishermen, fares he has picked up from Aberdeen Airport. This year, D&G Flydressers — the "G" is his wife Gloria — will have supplied Farlow of Pall Mall with about 12,000 flies.

Mr Forbes took up tying flies in the mid-1980s to help out his wife, who had been trained at Sharpe's of Aberdeen and had kept up with customers when Sharpe's closed (Sharpe's rods are still made, but at Redditch, Worcestershire).

Mrs Forbes has now given up tying and gone to work in an old people's home while her husband runs half a dozen outworkers. "There is not much of a livelihood in fly-tying," he says. "Not at 4p profit on each fly."

One of the reasons he carries on is the encouragement of his Aberdeen accountant, A. Gordon McBain. Apart from looking after the firm's books, Mr McBain has a personal interest in ensuring the continuation of D&G Flydressers — the Purple McBain, a fly whose success Peter Mackenzie-Philips records in his book, *Successful Modern Salmon Flies* (Blandford Press, £12.95). The purple, purple McBain, reflects the fly's colouring, not his own.

Like most fishermen, Mr McBain once tended to carry rather more flies than he was ever likely to cast upon the waters. (Gillies delight in saying that flies catch more fishermen than fish.) Waiting to buy cast in Mortimers



Tied up: flytying pursuits are paying off for Douglas Forbes

of Grantown-on-Spey one day, he spotted an unusual purple fly and bought two. They turned out to be surprisingly successful. He lost one and sent the other back to Mortimers with an order for more.

What came back bore no resemblance to the original, he remembers, so he went to Mrs Forbes and between them they cooked up the Purple McBain, which has developed to the extent that it owes little, apart from colouring, to the Grantown fly. High water, low water, Tweed or Deveron, since 1984 Mr McBain has fished almost exclusively with that fly. "I can see no point in fishing with anything else," he says. His salmon tally, let alone sea trout, is the fly is 81.

What may slightly disturb other fishermen is the suggestion that the changing of flies from, say, a Hairy Mary to a Munro Killer, makes not one whit of difference. Provided the right-sized fly is on the cast, there appears to be no reason to fish with anything other than the Purple McBain.

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON

• Mail order list from D&G Flydressers, 3 Wood Street Lane, Aberdeen AB1 3QF (0224 872 170).

### THIS WEEKEND

• World pea shooting championships: Individuals and groups from UK and abroad; village fete, stalls, sideshows, tug of war. *Witcham, near Ely, Cambridgeshire. Today from 2pm, free.*

• Nether Winchendon open weekend: 11 houses and cottage gardens in this pretty mediaeval village are open to the public. Rural crafts, plant and produce stalls, masses of flowers and choral and instrumental concert tomorrow, 7.30pm, in 15th-century church. In aid of the chancel roof. *Nether Winchendon, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Concert tickets 0844 290441/292057 (information 0844 290203).*

• Gala open air concert: Part of Lucknam Park's contribution to the 800th birthday celebrations of Colerne parish church. Georgian City Orchestra plays Bach, Haydn, Strauss and Handel. *Lucknam Park, Colerne, Wiltshire. Tomorrow. Concert begins 7pm. £6-£10, unreserved £2.50 (reservations 0225 742777).*

• Sixted Festival: Last two concerts. Tonight 7.30pm, Amaryllis Consort sings music of 17th century England. Tomorrow 7.30pm, Essex Youth Orchestra plays music by Weber, Strauss, Walton and Elgar. *Sixted Church, Sixted, Essex. Tonight, reserved £8, unreserved £5, child £2.50. Tomorrow, £6, £4, £2 (0371 830350).*

• Stratford-upon-Avon Festival: Three-week music festival begins today. Town carnival today from 1pm then a cerid. Firework display tomorrow 10.30pm. *Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, until August 5 (0789 679569).*

### Country events

### NEXT WEEK

• King's Lynn Festival of Music and the Arts: The ten-day festival commemorates Sir John Barbirolli. This year's theme is Italian. *King's Lynn Centre for the Arts, King Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk. July 18-28 (0553 774725).*

• Music for the Royal Fireworks: Open-air lakeside concert with the Handel Festival Orchestra, English Brass Ensemble and fireworks. Wine bar, creperie and other refreshments. *Radley College, Radley, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Wed-Sun, gates open 6.30pm, £15, child £5. Wed, tomorrow 10am-6pm. £4.50, child £3.50, car park free.*

• Ashbourne Highland Gathering: Tomorrow, English pipe band championship, Highland and country dancing and strong men. Arenas, stalls, sideshows and other entertainment. Tattoo this evening. *Ashbourne, Recreation Ground, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Today 1pm-3.30pm (tattoo 7.30pm, tomorrow 11am-6pm. Today, adult £1.50, child £1. Tomorrow, adult £2.50, child £1.25. Tattoo £3.50-£5.50.*

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VICTORIA MCKEE

### Get outdoors



### The rainforests need you

Rainforests affect us all wherever we live.

• They retain and recycle water and prevent disasters like floods, landslides and famine.

• They provide vital sources of foods and life-saving medicines for both local people and ourselves.

• By burning them we contribute to global warming, climatic change and rising sea levels around our own coasts.

YET we are destroying an area equal to fifteen football pitches every minute and thousands of plants and animals are being wiped out forever.

WWF (World Wide Fund For Nature) has already invested over £10 million in 160 rainforest conservation projects.

HELP US RAISE £1 MILLION FOR OUR RAINFOREST AND EDUCATION PROJECTS AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL MATCH IT. We can only have this money if you and other supporters help us to match the Government's grant.

Any extra money you raise will be used to finance other WWF priority rainforest projects in Asia, Africa and S.America.

All you have to do is WALK. There are over 300 WWF fund raising walks around the country.

You can choose how far you want to walk or make a donation.

Please send for your local sponsor form now.

WWF (World Wide Fund For Nature) is a registered charity, number 207259. Registered office: 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3AB. Tel: 0171 220 5200. Fax: 0171 220 5201. E-mail: [info@wwf.org.uk](mailto:info@wwf.org.uk)

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# Would you swap London for this?

What advantages are there for joining the growing band of people moving away from the buzz and facilities of the capital?  
Sally Brompton found out

**H**ugh Corran still misses the international, entrepreneurial buzz of London life after nearly four years of living in Harrogate. "If you are an international businessman and have lived somewhere else, Harrogate is a provincial backwater," he says. "While the quality of life, in English terms, is high, in European terms it's pretty ordinary."

Despite his mixed feelings about the north Yorkshire spa town which is now his home, Mr Corran, aged 51, a senior marketing executive with ICI Fibres, is unwittingly spearheading a trade revolution, according to the Henley Centre, the forecaster of business trends.

Harrogate is one of 30 regional centres — from Salisbury to Inverness — which the centre predicts will prosper in Britain in the 1990s as a result of the slump in London's importance as a national and international centre.

As his firm's headquarters is in Harrogate, having transferred there from its Knightsbridge office, the move north did not come as a surprise to Mr Corran and his German wife, Sigrid. However, it has meant a conscious cultural adjustment.

"I've not really met an international person up here," Mr Corran says. "The people are much less travelled and you suddenly find that your interests are different. But they may actually be nicer people here — they have more time for you. It's just that their vision is much more circumscribed."

Mr Corran considers Harrogate to be cheaper than London, although he finds the choice of goods limited and the standards lower. "London has good facilities; the shopping, entertainment, food culture — we used Harrods a lot. The temptation to spend money is less here."

"In Harrogate the Italian restaurants still serve pizza and indifferent spaghetti bolognese, and you get sachets of salad cream instead of French dressing. Our Continental visitors are not enamoured with Harry Ramsden's fish and chips."

Mr Corran joined ICI Fibres straight from Oxford, where he read modern languages, and has lived in New York and Milan. He still travels extensively to Europe and, occasionally, America, and resents the fact that it costs him as much to fly from Leeds to London as it does from London to the Continent.

Yet, despite Harrogate's shortcomings, he and his wife agree that the town has improved. "It has become much younger and more lively than when we first came," says Mrs Corran, who gave up her career as a knitwear



Symbol of tranquility: Salisbury cathedral is "must" for sightseers. Newcomers who work in the town say: "It's less stressful than London, people are more courteous, and there's a strong emphasis on music and the arts"

design consultant ten years ago. "It has many more good shops. I find better Continental clothes in Harrogate than I do in the South. I've just discovered a shop here that sells Zandra Rhodes — the only place I have found outside London that does so."

Mrs Corran uses the same supermarkets as she did in London but says it is harder to find European basics, such as olive oil. "And getting tradesmen quite a bit, but he never does it now."

While missing the social life among the bankers and entrepreneurs who lived near their previous home in Weybridge, Surrey, the couple appreciate the warmth of the Yorkshire people. "There's a very stable community around us," Mrs Corran says. "When we go away our neighbours look after the house, and if I'm here on my own there's always a plate of Sunday roast for me."

"The way of life here is much more real than in the South. People have the right priorities. You get the feeling that you might really live until you are 90."

There are other advantages, despite the climate, which Mrs Corran finds considerably colder

around Salisbury but entertaining is done more at home."

The Smiths moved to the cathedral town to be near the export company for which Captain Smith was, at the time, working on a freelance basis. They sold their three-bedroomed detached house in Bromley, Kent, along with planning permission for another dwelling, for £26,000 and bought an £82,000 four-bedroomed house with an office annexe in a village on the outskirts of Salisbury.

Their only concern were for their daughters, Alexandra, now 15, and Nicola, 12, but the girls settled happily in their new schools, although their parents feel that the standard of education is not as high as it could be.

"I do not feel they've suffered but I do feel they would have got an education we would have been happier with if we had stayed in Kent," says Mrs Smith, 43, who works part-time for a public relations consultancy based in Southampton. "But the girls are both happy here. They did mind leaving their friends but children are so adaptable and their whole lives now revolve around horses."

The Smiths main disappointment is the difficult journey to

London, because of the inefficient train service and the heavy traffic on the A30 and A303. "We do have a rush hour in Salisbury but it lasts only 20 minutes," Captain Smith says. Mrs Smith still does the family shopping in one of the major supermarkets and buys her clothes at the local Marks & Spencer. "Salisbury is a very cosmopolitan town," she says.

"There's a very strong emphasis on music and the arts and a lot of things revolve around the cathedral."

"There's such a high degree of courtesy here, and it's definitely a less stressful atmosphere. I loved London when I left there but now I feel so unsafe there and I loathe the Underground."

## Blood and thunder approach to Church

**F**or some families, however, moving away from the South-East can be a traumatic experience. When David Quinton's Surrey-based firm decided to expand into the Highlands it took him and his wife, Jan, about 18 months to settle into their new

home on the outskirts of Inverness. "At one time, we were ready to move back to Crawley," admits Mr Quinton, aged 39. "But now wild horses wouldn't drag us back."

After three years in the Highlands, where English immigrants are known as "white settlers", the couple have come to terms with their new "leisurely" life-style, and Mrs Quinton has overcome her initial feelings of loneliness and isolation. "It takes time to build relationships," Mr Quinton says.

As the general manager for Zonal, manufacturers of recording tape, he spent the first few months setting up the new factory and training his new local workforce — "the best I've ever worked with".

His 38-year-old wife works part-time for the firm and their daughters, Clare, 14, and Sarah, 11, go to the local school, which the Quintons consider provides a better standard of education than in England. "We were worried about the kids not settling but in fact it was Jan and I who didn't settle as quickly," Mr Quinton says.

Regular churchgoers, the Quintons found it hard to accept the "blood and thunder" ap-

proach to Christianity which they found in the Highlands. "Even cooking on Sundays is very out of order here," Mr Quinton says. "But we've done what our consciences felt was right and people have to put up with it." The family still have their Sunday roast.

Their standard of living has

gone up as they now live in a £45,000 four-bedroomed, double-garaged detached bungalow on an acre of ground. They sold their three-bedroomed terraced house in Crawley for £52,000.

"We eat out a lot more, mainly because the food is so cheap," Mrs Quinton says.

On other things in the shops, she estimates, are about 10 per cent more expensive than in the South. They both like the "old-world" cathedral city — "a nice little place, and when I say 'little' I do mean 'little,'" says Mr Quinton. But they agree: "There's one theatre we haven't yet been to and one cinema, which we've been to a couple of times," Mr Quinton says. "I would prefer to be in Crawley in terms of night life and shopping, but I wouldn't want to be there to live."

SALLY BROMPTON

## Events In Town

### THIS WEEKEND

• **Ripon cathedral concert:** The English Renaissance Orchestra plays Beethoven's Symphony No 8 in F, his overture *Leonora*, McCawley's Piano Concerto in E flat, followed by Mozart's *Missa Brevis* in D. **Ripon Cathedral, north Yorkshire.** Tonight 7.30pm, £7, child £3. Tickets from Ripon Travel, Kirkgate, or Arcadia Music.

• **UK Modelex wings 'n' wheels** spectacular: Vintage cars, radio-controlled aircraft, helicopters and boats, stalls, trade exhibition and big band concert tonight. **North Weald Aerodrome, Harlow, Essex.** Today 9.30am to evening. Tomorrow 9.30am-6pm: £3.50, child £1.50 (booking 0894 64505).

• **Corby Highland gathering and Sunday fair:** Traditional events with piping, drumming, dancing, tug-of-war, tossing the caber, and many other Highland events today. Tomorrow, full programme of arena events, circus and other children's entertainments, bands. **Rockingham Triangle Athletics Stadium, Corby, Northamptonshire.** Today 8.30am-5.30pm, Tomorrow 11am-5.30pm; £3, child £1.50.

• **Bedseye show:** Arena events, classic cars, parachute drops, traction engines and tomorrow, an exemption dog show. **Danson Park, Welling, Kent.** Today, tomorrow 11am-5.30pm, £1.70, family ticket — two adults plus two children — £4.

• **Chesterfield festival:** Aeolian harps today, tomorrow in Imperial Gardens, 2pm. Today, street entertainment, carnival procession from 2pm. Tomorrow fun races from 11am, donkey derby 2pm in Cox's Meadow. **Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.**

• **Jewish Museum open day:** Exhibition about the social history of London's Jewish community. Events include a working tailor, demonstrations of cabinet-making and Hebrew calligraphy, live Yiddish music, drama workshops and beagles for children. **Bays Park, Carlisle, Cumbria.** Thurs from 9am.

• **Cumberland agricultural show:** Bringing the country to town with livestock, horticulture, trade stands, competitions and a Food and Drink section. **Bays Park, Carlisle, Cumbria.** Thurs from 9am.

JUDY FROST

## Gold Father Thames

Today 100 anglers will try to hook a £10,000 prize out of the Thames



GED.

still hardy a fish is it. A determined pollution control programme since then has created conditions which have brought more than 100 different species back to the river, including bass, cod, hake, pipefish and an annual run of salmon.

Since 1979, 1,100,000 salmon have been put into the freshwater reaches of the Thames. The salmon swim out to sea where they winter for one, two or more years before returning to breed, always to their native river. In common with all fish the level of mortality is frighteningly high and the number of salmon returning can be as low as 0.05 per cent.

In 1980, four salmon were trapped and released on their way back up the Thames. In 1981 the figure was eight and in 1988 there were a record 323 returning salmon counted. Last year's figure slumped to 131 because the summer was so hot and the water levels so low and short of oxygen that many salmon died in their attempt to get back to their breeding grounds.

The Thames Salmon Trust, a charity which works with the National Rivers Authority and Taps, is aiming at a target of 1,000 salmon returning annually.

"Even that figure does not give the angler much chance of catching a salmon in such a large river as the Thames," Mr Hodges says. "The object of the programme is not to provide targets for anglers, but to restore the stock of salmon for posterity."

If today's competitors do catch a salmon, it will be gently returned to the river as will all the other fish. Even duck-eating pike.

JACK CROSSLIN

• **Thames Angling Preservation Society, The Pines, Tile Kiln Lane, Bedsey, Kent.** EAS 2BB: (0322) 525575.

• **Thames Salmon Trust, 2nd floor, Meadow House, King Meadow Road, Reading RG1 8DQ.** (0735) 593843.

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Market magic: Peter Crossley, co-owner of the Oasis Garden Centre

## The green oasis alive with snakes and tarantulas

**Manchester's Victorian fish market is now a garden centre, but it is not only the vegetables and plants that are attracting the customers**

**FISH**, fruit and vegetables were banished from grand Victorian markets in the middle of Manchester in the 1970s, and, as with Billingsgate and Covent Garden in London, the traders and their wares were shifted off to town to places more rational and less picturesque.

Unlike in London, philistinism prevailed and the atmospheric old iron, glass and brick market buildings were stripped of their roofs; some were demolished. Only the walls were left, belatedly listed as being of special architectural interest.

Then along came a couple of Mancunians who thought the site of an old fish market would be just the place to start a business. So Peter Crossley and John Warley leased the land from the city and in a couple of months created a green oasis from the dereliction, the Oasis Garden Centre, which has been going for seven years.

As a former retail warehouse manager, Mr Warley scarcely had green fingers, but horticulture was evidently in the blood – his father had worked at Kew Gardens. Now he is nearly as expert as his partner, who had run market gardens and been sales manager of a garden centre. "The idea of a city garden centre has paid off," says Mr Crossley. "The Oasis attracts not only shoppers who come into town for the day, but office staff who pop in at lunchtime or on their way home from work."

"We stock everything from a 50p Busy Lizzie to a Cycad media for £1,000. That's an Australian plant which is an ancestor of the Christmas tree."

The Oasis adjoins Manchester's largely Asian-run garment district, and is just a few minutes' walk

from the city's thriving Chinatown. "That's another pleasure of being in the city centre: we are able to cater for a multicultural clientele," Mr Warley says. Asian customers are keen on plants to grow for food – okra, aubergine, chilli pepper, coriander, cumin and fenugreek. Tree peonies from China, are popular with the Chinese. A ten-year-old one costs £100; recently a Chinese customer snapped up ten.

"Chinese people love a particular sort of flowering cactus we grow which they call 'town-fish'."

Mr Crossley says. "When it blooms it flowers for only two hours, and fills the room with scent which smells like crushed pineapples and mangoes. They will sit by the plant and wait until it blooms – I think they have a special appreciation of the transience of beauty."

**IN ADDITION** to its range of up to a thousand plants, the Oasis also has an aquarium and a reptarium, with koi carp, lizards, giant toads, and snakes – ranging from a tiny sand boas to a 16ft python. There are also fruit bats, tarantulas and scorpions – and there are plans for wallabies and butterflies.

The partners sometimes deal with television and film companies. "Once, for a television commercial, we had to build a garden that went through four seasons and aged ten years in just a week's filming," Mr Crossley recalls.

"We've hired out plants, snakes and tarantulas. Only this week the BBC rang up to hire an ant. You might say we do the lot, from plant hire to ant hire."

BERNARD SILK

**Help: Lydia Wong, masseuse**

## Utilising feats of skill



Balancing act: Lydia Wong believes in the harmony of mind and body exercises that strengthen the inner self."

She emphasises balance, "the yin and yang of the body and the mind", and offers suggestions on how to achieve that balance physically and emotionally.

A slim, erect figure in her Chinese-style blouse and baggy trousers, Ms Wong has learned to make her feet as healing as her hands. "But I wouldn't walk all over everybody. I have to judge such things carefully." A big, muscular back supports her 8 stone frame easily, and athletes are ideal candidates. "When I was younger I was asthmatic, and heavily stressed from working night-shifts in a casino to support my daughter," Ms Wong says. "So

I worked out my own programme of diet and exercise and it was a process of self-education."

Although she spent a time with Bodyworks, the now defunct organisation formed to send masseuses and other therapists into offices, she believes it failed because people do not want massage in the office. "They are too aware there that time is money. People want to have it at home, or somewhere where they can relax and forget about work."

VICTORIA MCKEE

LYDIA Wong would love to walk all over you – and some of the richest and most famous people in the world pay her to do just that, all in the cause of health. Ms Wong's sensitive feet have kneaded the He-man torso of actor Dolph Lundgren and the more delicate anomalies of the actress Anjelica Huston and the Sheik of Abu Dhabi.

She will visit clients at home or on their yachts, or anywhere in the world, when she is not holding more moderately priced sessions at a London health centre and her local church, or teaching stress management to executives.

The petite 33-year-old from Singapore began practising Shatsu massage and other oriental healing arts on friends when she was at home bringing up her daughter. She has now built up an awesome reputation in an area that is open to sniggers and innuendo. But Ms Wong is serenely above all that, accepting it as something all masseuses, however reputable, have to put up with.

Although she has trained in Britain and abroad, and is a member of the Association of Physical Therapists, she warns against putting too much trust in a masseuse's professional qualifications. "It's easy to go on massage courses," she says. "You pay your money and you come away with a piece of paper from a weekend's instruction. What is important is to have a healing touch, to use your instincts, and to *treasure* the body."

Those who have experienced her healing touch say it is exceptional. Yet you do not need to be ill to benefit from what she has to offer. Her Wednesday night classes at the Church of the Holy Innocents, in Hammersmith, west London, feature a selection of exercises which are based on Tai Chi, Shatsu and what Ms Wong calls "kinetics" – "Chinese

## Changing face

**L**ondon has never been able to decide if it approves of arcaded streets. One generation returns from the Continent enamoured of the rue de Rivoli and the Piazza San Marco, the next takes the view of the American consul in Italy who, a century ago, condemned "the whole race of arcaded cities" as "dull, blind and uncomfortable... a continuous sell-away". Perhaps the weather changes every 20 to 25 years: first we clamour for shelter from the driving rain, next we want to walk outside in the sun.

As Phase II of the Victoria Station redevelopment emerges from its wraps (and good, informative wraps they were, by Wall Street Murals) we see a scheme which tries to combine the best of both – a majestic, airy colonnade with a continuous glass roof behind, like a conservatory.

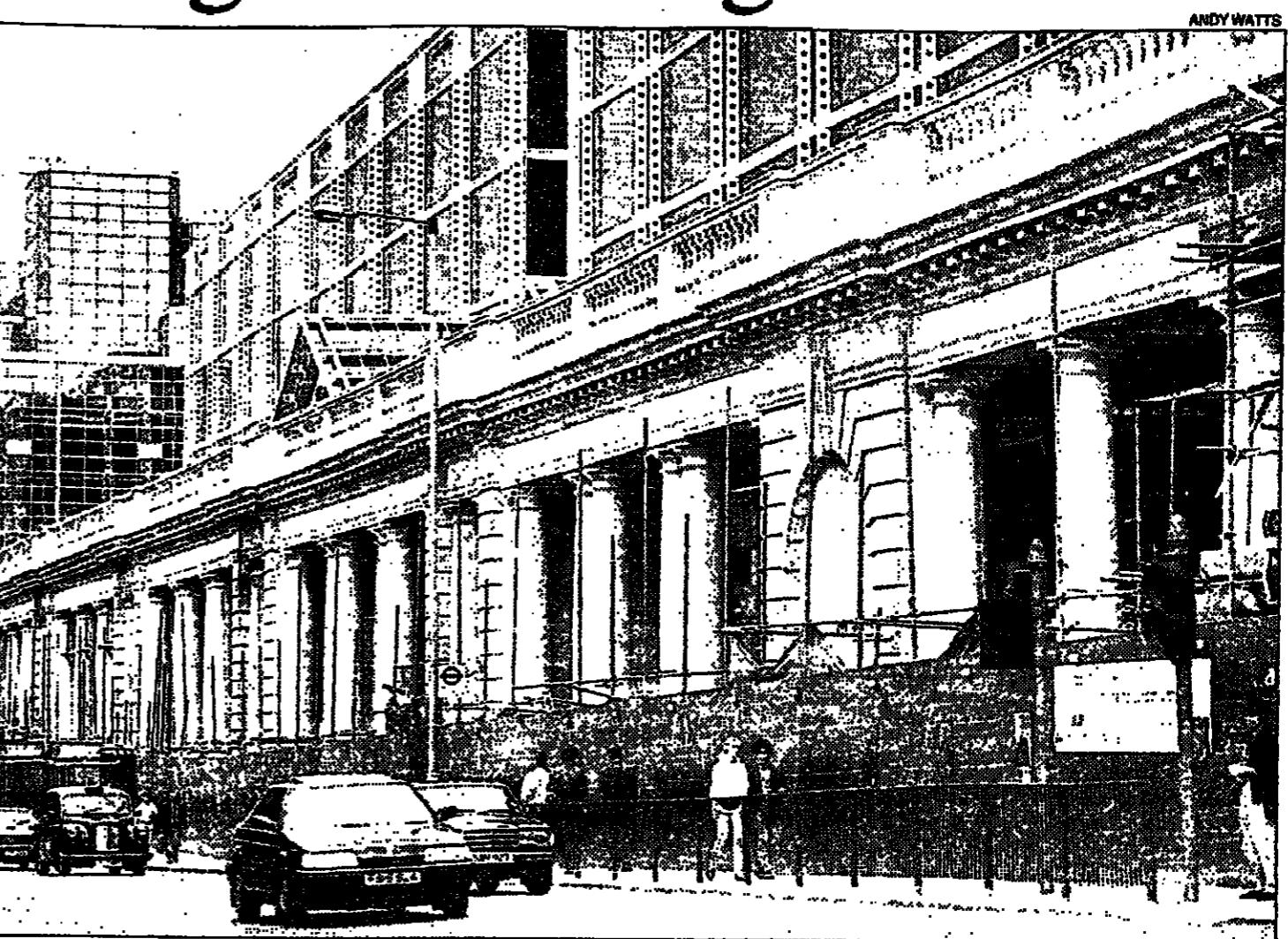
For the past ten years the southern end of Buckingham Palace Road has been the most noxious introduction to a great city imaginable. Here, in five minutes, you could absorb more lead from fumes than our ancestors would have taken in during a lifetime. A less user-friendly transport exchange, particularly for passengers moving to and from Victoria railway and coach stations, cannot be imagined.

Now, the drivers who surge along Buckingham Palace Road have been treated to an extraordinary sight – a gleaming white stone colonnade, as stately as any in London, 600ft long with 20ft Doric columns all the way. Here is monumental classical architecture on a scale well beyond what has been created at Richmond Riverside or conceived for Paternoster. In height and length, it deserves comparison with the great screen wall with which Sir John Soane closed the Bank of England to protect its gold bullion. And if it seems half-familiar, you are not mistaken, for this was the wall erected by Act of Parliament in the early 1900s to shut out all sight and sound of the railway. The Duke of Westminster's condition in releasing the land was that the smoke from steam engines should not float out into the expensive purities of Belgravia.

The architect of 123 Buckingham Palace Road, as the new scheme is known, is Peter Foggo, who recently left Arup Associates to set up his own practice. His clients, Greycourt Estates and British Rail, gave him the task of combining a large and lucrative scheme of offices and shopping over the tracks with a pleasant route through to the coach station. At the same time, the Green Line bus stops, uncomfortably sited on Euston Road, have been housed under cover.

The solution has been to retain the architectural element of the great screen wall along Buckingham Palace Road – the columns, the niches, the cornices and balustrades. To replace the large panels of brickwork in the new openings, handsome Doric columns have been introduced.

A century ago, architects would have agonised over the precise distance between the columns, all of which were mathematically set out in Roman and Renaissance treatises. Mr Foggo has simply placed the new columns beneath the breaks in the Edwardian balustrade above. Here, un-



Part of the 600ft Doric colonnade fronting Victoria station's arcade of shops and eating places, forming a throughway to the coach station

consciously perhaps, he was echoing Palladio's advice that the Tuscan Order, virtually identical to Doric, could be more widely spaced than Ionic or Corinthian, making it suitable, he said, for placing carts and other vehicles between the openings. Mr Foggo has given the new colonnade grandeur by coupling the columns in a one-and-a-half-rhythm, like the paired columns Wren used at Greenwich.

Inside the colonnade, there will be a broad, level walk flanked by shops and places to eat. The sleek tinted-glass buildings above have a double skin with sheets of glass one metre apart. In winter, this will help to retain the warmth of the sun, in summer ventilators will open automatically at the top, drawing in cooler air from below.

The floors of the new pedestrian mall will be in a buff-coloured French stone, the granular texture of which makes it easier to remove blackened chewing-gum stains which so quickly disfigure white terrazzos.

The ingenuity is a mix of public and private space. The new pedestrian mall and large covered square will be paid for and maintained by the developers but open to the public 24 hours a day.

Mr Foggo's scheme shows how

the classical language of architecture can be applied to a modern utilitarian building and raise it above the level of pure function. It is easy to see how the high-tech glass and steel box above could have been continued down to pavement level, and this, in fact, is what happens at the sides.

As it is, the colonnades provide a happy response to the row of Edwardian houses across the street, which, incidentally, has some of the richest iron railings in London. Mr Foggo also intends to mirror the leafy row of plane trees opposite with huge planters filled with substantial trees and shrubs.

The test of 123 Buckingham Palace Road will be whether travellers between the coach and railway stations use it, and this in turn depends on sufficient trolleys being available at both ends. Otherwise, the hard-won planning gain will be thrown away.

For Westminster, the development is proof that tough planning policy aimed at maintaining the character of the borough is actually helping it compete with the City. Phase I of the development was let to Salomon Brothers, the American investment bankers, and Phase II has been pre-let to PA Management Consultants and the Department of Trade and Industry.

MARCUS BINNEY



An inside view of the colonnade with its continuous glass roof

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# Trying to estimate the sell-buy date

**N**ow that the first tremors of the art market earthquake have subsided, it is time to dust off those heirlooms and reassess their worth. Apart from the disengaged vendors currently collecting their possessions from the auctioneers' tradesmen's entrances, the tricky question of value is exercising the dealing fraternity, insurance loss adjusters and heritage lobbyists.

Categories recently cultivated by speculators, such as impressionism, have been hardest hit. Other, dealer-dominated, areas, such as the British paintings sold last week, are relatively unscathed. All areas, however, have been visited by unpredictability, with some star lots performing magnificently while others simply flop.

Last week's British casualties included a minor John Constable drawing of a girl, unsold at less than £8,000, and Joseph Wright, of Derby's erupting *Vesuvius from Posillipo* unsold at £80,000. At the other extreme, a bronze sculpture by Sir (William) Hamo Thornycroft defied its estimate of £1,800, selling to the London dealer Peter Nahum for £23,100.

The issue for heritage professionals, such as the members of the reviewing committee for the export of works of art which met last Thursday, is whether or not to accept valuations, usually made by auction houses, at last year's bullish prices. A year ago, the committee rubber-stamped a valuation of £20 million on Turner's *Seascape, Folkestone*, despite the fact that, even during the boom, no painting by him had fetched this much. Because no museum could match that amount and "save" the work, it went abroad.

Museum curators have the knotty problem of valuing art works being lent to exhibitions under a government indemnity, or insurance policy. The paintings scheduled for the Royal Academy's Monet exhibition in September come under this category. If the curators get their prices wrong, the taxpayer could end up paying an inflated bill.

Loss adjustors are also facing complex calculations, and sometimes disputes over the value of stolen works. The scenario here is that a given category booms, whereupon the owners up their insurance premiums, and burglars catch on. Then, as the

## Why do some works fail to meet their estimate – and some soar beyond it?

ply want to sell a painting, assessment of the market temperature and the worth of a given artefact are confused by a variety of auction practices. These entail "knocking down" works at the final price called out, whether the object sells or not, or indeed whether there are any bids or not. The final "valuation" supplied by the auctioneers to subscribers in their printed sales sheets do not specify what is and is not sold.

Whereas the estimated price first suggested by the auctioneer at the time of consignment is duly published in a given catalogue, the reserve, or lowest price at which the vendor agrees to sell the work, is often adjusted before the sale, making for frequent distortions in relation to the estimate.

If, as appears to have happened with the failed Joseph Wright of Derby painting at Christie's, the reserve was raised to around the level of the printed estimate, it is impossible for observers to know whether the "knock-down" price is due to genuine bidding, or simply the owner's reserve. Bids at £200,000 – right on the printed lower estimate.

Other pitfalls include the varying degree of expertise available. Whereas Sotheby's and Christie's had steady results for their British paintings last week (apart from the Wright of Derby), vendors at Phillips's equivalent sale had to take home 40 per cent of the works, due to a combination of what one dealer described as "poor-quality works and over-high estimates".

So how does the disappointed vendor assess the value of his unsold work? With difficulty.

A logical way would be to find a similar work which did sell, and equate the two. Such calculations, however, become irrelevant in a climate where buyers reject "stale goods". Similarly, vendors have no recourse against the auction house for getting the valuation wrong, and no guarantee that after-sale offers will be negotiated to their satisfaction. One dealer derides Phillips for refusing to sell a Henry Moore drawing after a sale, because the company insisted on its usual 10 per cent commission from both buyer and seller. Unless a vendor negotiates with the auction house beforehand, a disappointed he or she can be faced with a bill for up to 5 per cent of the work's "value", £400

Failure: this John Constable was rejected unsold at under £8,000



Success: a Thornycroft bronze topped its estimate by £21,300

burglars go into action, the market falters, and the insurance men refuse to pay more than the lower market price.

"Valuations are accepted mainly by insurance companies, and everything is hunky dory until the thing is stolen," says Stephen Rollo-Smith, of the insurance company Miller Knight. For ordinary punters who sim-



Over-priced and left unsold: the Burne-Jones drawing of Mrs Mary Gaskell, estimated at £12,000 to £16,000, failed to sell at even £8,500

for a colour illustration in the catalogue, and 1 per cent in surcharge costs.

Finally, for the flush client

looking for an investment, is there any point in attempting to form a collection of bargain "bought in" lots? "For the private person taking a long-term view, the ones which have been around are the best to buy," said one dealer, adding, however, that such action could be "very dangerous".

**C**ertainly most auctioneers are keen. Sotheby's, for example, did manage to sell an important pastel drawing of dancers by Degas, which went unsold at their implosion sale last month.

Mr Nahum, who for many years

was head of Sotheby's Victorian paintings department, recently bought an unsold Burne-Jones drawing of Mrs Mary Gaskell.

Estimated at £12,000 to £16,000, it had gone unsold at £8,500. He says he refused to bid against what he



Over-priced and left unsold: the Burne-Jones drawing of Mrs Mary Gaskell, estimated at £12,000 to £16,000, failed to sell at even £8,500

believed was the reserve. He succeeded in buying it later at what he reckons was the true market price.

But it takes experience to ascertain whether there have been any genuine bids or not, and even dealers are often unable to tell. Mr Nahum was not so lucky with another unsold painting, because the auctioneers said they had sold it privately. The next he heard was that they had approached another dealer, who was not an expert in his field. "I bought it with the other dealer and lost half the profit," Mr Nahum says.

"The time to start buying unsold lots is when you think the market is at its bottom," said one art market warhorse. "Better to pay a dealer 10 per cent for advice than get highly subjective information from the auction houses."

Better still, he could well have said, sell to a dealer who is financially secure enough to buy your market-weary work outright, and keep it in store until it regains its freshness.

## Review

Antique peak: Record for any Egyptian antiquity when a 4-in-tall turquoise-glazed pottery hippopotamus sold for £528,000 to the London dealer Robin Symes. The previous record, just short of that price, was for a granite sculpture of the goddess Sekhmet.

Fall circle: Greek and Sotheby's come to a private sale agreement over the three best Cycladic sculptures, which now return to Greece. The rest sells impressively, a vessel circa 3,000 BC going for £88,000 (estimate, £12,000 to £18,000).

Head case: £55,000 for a Roman marble head of Antonius Pius which used to be employed by its Norfolk-based vendor as a decorative stone on a grass verge.

Watershed: Record: at £286,000 (estimate, £150,000 to £200,000) for a watercolour by Thomas Girtin, thus elevating this artist into the same league as Turner. It was one of two previously unrecorded works found recently by Sotheby's experts in a client's linen chest.

Best English picture: Group portrait of the Colmore family by Johann Zoffany, which sold on its lower estimate at Christie's for £2.09 million.

English flora: Portrait of the violinist Paganini by George Parthen (estimate, £80,000 to £100,000); Vesuvius (estimate, £800,000 to £1.2 million).

## Preview

### TODAY

A chance to buy the two fast launches which starred in chase sequences in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* at Phillips' annual sale of classic rivercraft and ephemera at Henley-on-Thames. Complete with simulated bullet holes, they are estimated at £16,000 and £10,000 respectively.

### MONDAY July 16

Last full week of London sales before the pinstripe-suited army of auctioneers, experts, and porters take off for their summer break.

### TUESDAY July 17

British drawings and watercolours at Christie's King Street features an Alma Tadema without the usual quota of lovelies: a stage set for *Coriolanus*, estimated to £20,000.

### WEDNESDAY July 18

Original Marc caricatures, including Cecil Beaton, Bianca Jagger (both estimated at £400), and a

lugubrious big-eared Prince of Wales (£500) at Christie's South Kensington. As drawn by the late Mark Boxer, contributor to this paper from 1969 to 1983, and in later years the editor of *Tatler* magazine.

Almost 70 charming drawings by Alison Lurie, who illustrated Little Grey Rabbit, at Christie's South Kensington. The drawings, which depict the adventures of Fuzzy-pegs, Moldy Warp and company, not to mention LGR himself, were given by the artist to a three-year-old Welsh boy and rediscovered last year.

At Sotheby's, the so-called Dallas collection of Great Britain and the British Empire stamps, estimated at up to £1 million for 2,300 stamps. The name derives from the vendor's connection with the Texan oil city. Highlights include a Jamaican one shilling stamp inscribed "Queen Victoria of Jamaica Lady Supreme" whose now desirable fault is that the frame is printed upside down.

THURSDAY July 19

Sotheby's first sortie into the lucrative Lordships of the Manor business, and they are selling the most prestigious of all. The Lordship of Stratford-upon-Avon, birthplace of William Shakespeare, and estimated at £250,000-plus, was sold as recently as two years ago for £87,000. The impressive pot-pourri which makes up this sale includes 76 unpublished letters from Mahatma Gandhi to his prodigal son Harilal (estimate £40,000) and Sir Walter Raleigh's signed *History of the World* published in 1611 (£8,000).



Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-493 8080); Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (071-839 9060), and 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (071-581 7611); Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6602). Henley rivercraft sale: The Boat Tent, Stewards enclosure, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire (0491-577955).

## Collector: Masks

# Facing up to mystery



Cover-up: Sally Fawcett with some of the masks she hopes will liberate British ball-goers

zing sequinned and pearl-embroidered helmet made for a self-conscious bald man attending the Venice carnival; a bear mask, the fur created by gold-painted quills; a space age head-piece twanging with *objets trouvés* such as guitar strings and pieces from circuit boards; and a lugubrious old man, his wrinkles scribbled on paper. The one which should get the prize for surreal effect is the 2ft wide sink plug by Charles O'Connor, a photographer and graphic designer. They are all for sale at prices ranging from £40 to £1,350.

Many come with famous names attached, such as the theatre designer Yolanda Sounabend and Vin Burnham, creator of the Batman mask in the Warner Brothers film.

Masks have a long history,

both magical and theatrical. In primitive cultures they transform their wearers by their magic; for the Casanovas of 18th century Venice, the half-face mask with phallic nose was used initially during the carnival season, but later became a means of disguise all year round.

THE greatest investment value is to be found in the tribal masks, because they have an worldwide market.

Highlights of the exhibition include a large funeral mask from the Papuan New Guinea, made of tree bark pulp, which is meant to be worn with a large phallus of the same fibre, while the wearer carries live snakes. It costs £1,250. A £250 wooden Siene Leone mask of a woman comes complete with wooden

rolls representing fat around the neck to show "she's really rich". The world auction record is the £30,000 paid for a hook-nose New Caledonian mask at Bonham's this spring.

A good reason for masks, Miss Fawcett says, is not investment or party-going, but therapy. "They liberate people," she says. She has seen dramatic transformations when people try them on: such as the dowdy woman who put on a Titian mask with a crown and "walked round the shop like a queen".

• *Masks for Dreams*, 80 Lupus Street, London SW1 (071-534 3680). Open 12 pm to 6.30 pm Tuesday to Saturday.

• *Surrealist ball*, Saturday July 28, Hay's Galleria, Tooley Street, London SE1. Tickets, £60, can be obtained from the NACF (071-821 0404).

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## Islam's cultural saviour

### Portrait

MICHAEL Rogers, the first professor of Islamic Art and Archaeology in Europe, is the creation of an enigma – Nasser David Khalili.

Mr Khalili runs an elegant West End gallery, but it is virtually devoid of art. He is effusive on his life's mission – to establish worldwide appreciation of Islamic art – but circumspect about his personal details and the source of his wealth.

Due to his munificence – £600,000 worth – London will become the centre for Islamic studies in Europe, possibly overtaking the efforts of the 46 Muslim countries which have little tradition of scholarship on their own heritage. "By educating more and more students we are sending out missionaries to different countries, promoting the art and



David Khalili: chairman of the heritage of Islam," Mr Khalili says. "Endowing the chair is my first step."

Mr Khalili is Iranian by birth, American by choice, and a British resident. He is the descendant of "four

generations of art collectors and dealers in the Islamic field". He was a graduate student at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, where the chair is being established.

A dealer until five years ago, he is now "an international adviser to collectors and institutions, as well as collecting myself". He charges "fees", huge fees".

He was responsible for advising the American collector Arthur Sackler on his antiquities collection, displayed at the Royal Academy in 1987 – and the subject of international controversy when it was claimed that some items were fake. Mr Khalili says that no one ever raised this matter with him.

Now the Nasser David Khalili chair is being polished in preparation for its first incarnation, so let the Islamic art revolution begin.

### At large

CHRISTIE'S has admitted it mislaid a painting featured in this column three weeks ago.

*George the Bearded, Duke of Saxony*, by Lucas Cranach the Elder, was submitted to the auction house three years ago for valuation and possible sale. It was valued at £18,000, but subsequently went missing. A spokesman said the painting "came in here, unframed, measuring 7in by 5in. It was put in a Jiffy bag after being catalogued, and was then mislaid. The place has been turned over and stock checks have been made."

The problem now is that the owner, an anonymous Englishman who, according to Christie's, "took two years to notice it had gone astray", is understood not to be too happy with Christie's valuation. Last week a magnificent double portrait by the same artist fetched £4,84 million at Christie's.

## ANTIQUES AND COLLECTING

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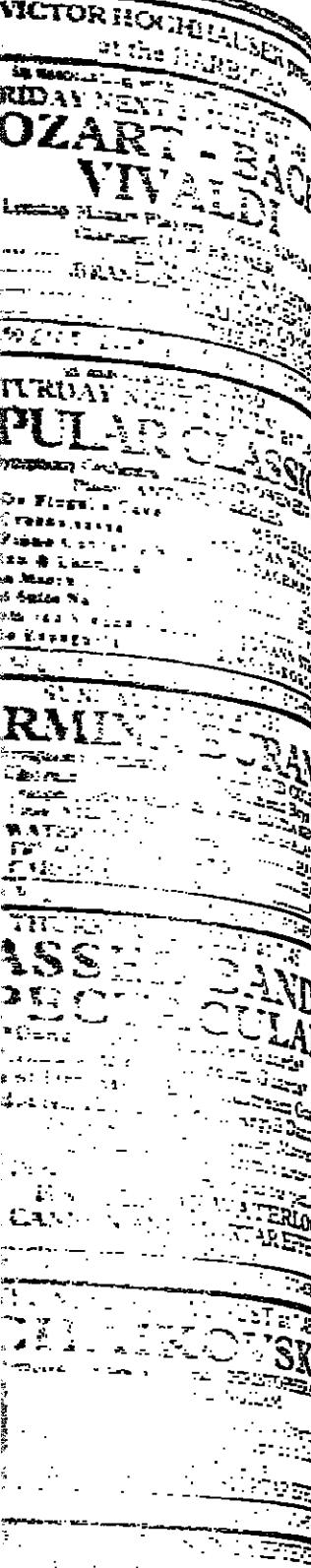
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## ARTS

## DANCE

# Stepping into the clear

In September, Ivan Nagy becomes artistic director of the much-troubled English National Ballet. He has high expectations, as he tells Debra Craine



Ivan Nagy: Eager to meet the challenge as the director of the English National Ballet

**I**van Nagy delights in the irony of his being appointed artistic director of English National Ballet. Almost 30 years ago, the company gave him his first taste of Western culture, back in the early Sixties when he was still a teenager in Budapest. Several years later, coincidence stepped in when he married one of the company's ballerinas. But somehow, during a career as a leading dancer that took the Hungarian émigré around the world, Nagy never managed to perform with English National Ballet (or London Festival Ballet as it was then called). Now he is to run it.

In September, Nagy will assume artistic control of Britain's second largest ballet company, taking over from Peter Schaufuss. Currently director of the Cincinnati Ballet, he is coming to ENB at a particularly traumatic time. Schaufuss, artistic director for five years, was fired in January following "irreconcilable differences" with the board of directors. A staggering budget deficit and the continuing problem of where to perform in London added to the company's woes. Then in May, Schaufuss announced that about a dozen of ENB's dancers would be joining him in Berlin where he has become director of the Deutsche Oper Ballet.

So it is not an altogether happy time to be moving into Markova House, ENB's headquarters tucked away behind the Royal Albert Hall. But Ivan Nagy does not seem to be worried. "Yes, I'm frightened. Yes, I'm very excited. Heaven knows, I'm not that intelligent. I'm not a charwoman. I don't know what is waiting for me, but I think I can take that challenge."

Nagy is currently in London to see his new company perform in its annual summer season at the Coliseum and to take stock of the situation he has inherited. His first task is to replenish ENB's roster of 64 dancers following the defection to Berlin. Auditions are under way. "I'm not worried about it because through the years you have so many people begging, there are so many good dancers waiting for a job. New blood is coming in all the time." The twinkle in his eye says he already has a few lined up, although he will not name names yet. But unlike Schaufuss, Nagy will not bring dancers over *en masse* from Cincinnati Ballet.

"Nobody thought I would ever be a strong director. You know, they thought 'Ivan is so nice and kind, he cannot be a good father.' Well, I have two kids and I'm a very strong father. Even my own family was surprised. Nine years I survived as a director. I'm not that nice. You can't please everybody when you're a director."

One thing he especially likes about ENB is its international profile and more dancers from abroad can be expected to join the company. "When I look at dancers, I don't look at passport, age, I don't read recommendations. I just see how I feel. ENB has such an incredibly rich background, and the different ethnic backgrounds in the company mean people bring their own culture to it."

Nagy's own background testifies to his internationalist instincts. Born in Debrecen, Hungary, he joined the Budapest State Opera Ballet in 1960. After winning a bronze medal at the 1965 Varna competition, which brought him to international attention, his career blossomed when he decided to defect. "I hate the word defect and I never really became a famous defector either, because I kept it very private. I don't have a juicy story, you know, like jumping the border, something incredible like the Russian defectors."

In the West, he joined the National Ballet Company in Washington and New York City Ballet, before becoming a principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre, where he spent 11 years until his retirement in 1978. His career as a director began in 1981 at the Ballet del Teatro Municipal in Santiago, Chile. Five years later he became director of the Cincinnati Ballet.

"I had the money, he would like to give his dancers a wage increase in recognition of the brevity of their dancing careers ('At 35, you're a senior citizen!'). He would also like to bring in new choreographers (the American Ben Stevenson and the Argentinian Mauricio Weinstroff are among those mentioned as favoured) and he is keen to work with Christopher Bruce as resident choreographer. As for himself, Nagy promises he will not be doing any choreography. "I think I would be bad and mediocre, and the world is filled with bad and mediocre choreographers. I certainly don't want to join them."

What about Nagy the dancer? Will the 47-year-old ex-dans<sup>eur</sup> noble — former partner of Dame Margot Fonteyn, Natalia Makarova and Gelsey Kirkland — now take the opportunity to complete the circle and finally dance with the first Western company he ever saw? "I've been a senior citizen for 12 years now and I'm fat. No way!"

with the board on money matters, artistic things are "my territory. We try to co-operate and we should co-operate, but artistic decisions — that is my responsibility."

He will, however, work to clear the deficit and do his bit to raise much-needed cash for ballets. "You have to fundraise eventually... money does not grow under apple trees!" He has done it before, when he took his Santiago company to his adopted homeland "and the government pulled out. I had to find a way to bring the whole thing to New York. You know, I did it. I really realised that it's not as difficult as I thought. I think I will do it here, too."

"I made an incredible impression. It was just overwhelming because I was brought up in the Russian ballerina and this was the first Western culture that I was able to see. I loved it."

"I danced all over the world and I never danced with Festival Ballet. I'm still married to Marilyn Burr, who was a ballerina with this company for so many years, and I'm taking over the company now. Life is very, very strange."

Taking over a company with a deficit of £260,000, Nagy is aware of the limitations a tight budget can place on his freedom to take artistic risks, and foresees the kind of struggles that go on when artistic decisions start running up the bills. While he will co-operate

Just

a number

in her

petite

red book.

## Straussian salute to a tireless enthusiast

## CONCERTS

William Mann  
Memorial  
Festival Hall

FOR William Mann, music critic of *The Times* for 34 years, Richard Strauss was god, and Munich was his Mecca. He called his four daughters after characters in Strauss' operas, and his important critical study of those operas, his programme notes and the translations which embodied his love and deep understanding of the composer nurtured comparable responses in generations of readers and music-lovers.

It was fitting, then, that the William Mann Memorial Concert should be dominated by Strauss's music. After a performance of Mozart's *Magic Flute* overture and

seldom sings in public these days, gamely stepped in at barely 24-hours' notice, though the late substitution meant that the advertised performance of Mozart's *Exsultate Jubilate* was dropped.

Bill, who had no time for mannerism or self-consciousness in either life or in music-making, would have warmed to her full-voiced, full-hearted performance. It was a timely reminder of what he once described as the "high protein content" of the songs. Rising to the sensibly brisk tempo set by Wordsworth, Harper brought rare energy and directness to Strauss's evocation of spring. September, sleep and man's last twilight. Words were made flesh and blood, the voices listened acutely, then rang out, barely stretched at all, answering the circling solo violin and the lark-song of the flutes.

Far from being *wanderer*, or tired of travelling (as Strauss's last song has it), Bill was touring Austria to research a new book on Schubert shortly before he died last September. Something of the confidence and vigour of life — as well as the fading of its light — in there, too, in these songs, and Heather Harper found it.

In the last line of all, the horn quotes Strauss' "transfiguration" theme from his orchestral tone-poem *Tod und Verklärung*. The Royal Philharmonic played it as a prelude to the *Four Last Songs* and did so with an enthusiasm which triumphed over the considerable difficulties of balance and pacing.

HILARY FINCH

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"A GREAT ACTRESS...  
WHO WAS BORN  
TO PLAY"

Douglas Slater, Daily Mail

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Times critic William Mann

## The tedium of secret soaps

## LITERATURE

**EARWIG**  
The Pit

TO ENTER the catacomb, the Pit, is like entering an inferno below Television Centre. Monitors hover over a stage on which catheterisation machinery and a floor-manager relays orders from a mumble booth above: "stand by, studio, nice and quiet". There are even plastic cups around the table where the creative people sit and the sofa on which the actors will soon perch ready for action.

This is the setting for a soap-within-a-series-within-a-play. A team of scriptwriters presents episodes of a drama involving a feminist playwright impelled by financial need to write commercial tat and by professional pride to pass it off as other people's work. The result is a piece forever jumping from level to level. Ron Daniels, the director, does well to make it so clear.

Is Paula Milne's play worth clarifying? The trouble is not the soap, a hilariously lachrymose portrait of parents who discover their children were swapped at birth. This is *Coronation Street* written by the characters of *Neighbours*. Nor is it altogether the serial, though this is more inept than Milne may realise.

In the last line of all, the horn quotes Strauss' "transfiguration" theme from his orchestral tone-poem *Tod und Verklärung*. The Royal Philharmonic played it as a prelude to the *Four Last Songs* and did so with an enthusiasm which triumphed over the considerable difficulties of balance and pacing.

HILARY FINCH

Who would believe that a feminist dramatist, unable to pursue her own work because of the greed of the "ghost" hired to write her secret soaps, would "solve" her problem by employing a more prolific if more congenial one? More to the point, why should any audience sympathise with someone surreptitiously sell-

ing herself to keep her second house, her children at private school, and her reputation for socialist principles?

Milne's handling of the people who created her. Though meant to be real, they too belong in a upmarket soap.

Their divisions are absolute. Two are hacks and opportunists keen to foist pap on the masses, and two are troubled radicals who hope to infiltrate their own beliefs onto the small screen.

Milne might have made her preference for the latter pair more persuasive had they not talked so throbberingly about commitment, anger and their on-and-off affection. Neither Clive Russell, a bearded Scots parody of the late David Mercer, nor the personable Sally Edwards can inject life into "when you last spoke out at that story conference, I thought what strength, what conviction!" and other such plonking lines.

Now it is as if the characters of *Dynasty* were writing a sitcom for Channel 4.

Yet the play has its amusing moments and, since Milne herself is an experienced television writer, its revealing ones. There may not yet be a computer called Earwig, which deduces in advance what ratings will be. But television undoubtedly has its evil operators, its victimised writers, and maybe even the word URST, meaning the Unresolved Sexual Tension that can lift a failed soap into a popular triumph. We do not leave the Pit altogether empty.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Lachrymose: Ian Driver and Lisa Harrow in *Earwig*

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Wimbleton), while someone faints, someone else has hysterics and 16 people ask to go to the loo. From O-levels to Oxbridge finals, exam technique remains the same.

You spend 35 seconds reading the paper, 10 minutes planning the first essay and an hour and five minutes writing it. You look at the clock, decide not to panic, look at the other questions and panic.

It's hard to think of a worse way of examining English than to ask someone to sit in an exam and be sensitive and imaginative in 46 minutes according to some kind of formula — and then do it again, and again," says the Oxford don Terry Eagleton. "It's a travesty of what the subject is about. Qualities of resilience count for more than intelligence."

It is not just the process, it is the actual questions. Eagleton believes that there are only two: "One is the bland, toothless question that pretends that it isn't simply saying 'write what you know about'."

Orwell was first and foremost a propagandist. Discuss."

"Orwell was first and foremost an artist. Debate."

"Jane Austen painted small bits of ivory. Was she a craftswoman?"

"George Eliot created loose, baggy monsters. Was she an incompetent seamstress?"

"Dickens wrote potboilers."

"Oh Malcolm. It's so sweet of you to have our INITIALS strip-mined into the Nevada desert. And abseiling thirty-five floors with a hundredweight of CHOCOLATE SNAILS... well, it was such a lovely gesture. And now Petite Liquorelle. How did you know?"

"She takes up the bottle Smiles as the blend of petit Bourdeaux wine and fine old COGNAC reaches her LIPS. Drains the last drop and leaves."

"Well... you're going already?"

"Got to... don't want to be late... boyfriend's taking me ice-skating this evening."

THINK PETITE. Petite Liquorelle. From the house of Mart & Chandon.

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petite

in her

petite

red book.

petite

in her

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red book.

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## SATURDAY'S TELEVISION &amp; RADIO

## BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Pure Maths – Quadratic Surfaces 7.05 Decision-Making: Miners' Wage Claim  
7.30 Playdays (7.50) Muppet Babies (7.85) The 8.15 from Manchester  
Teenage magazine series. Guests today include the group James, balloonist Susan Hogard, and steepleschaser Desert Orchid, while Martin Roberts's report from across the Atlantic is on drag racing. Presented by Charlotte Hindley and Ross King  
10.55 The Last of a Great Adventure (1983) starring Jon Provost and Richard Kiel. A made-for-television adventure in which Lassie and her owner are swept away in a hot-air balloon and crash land in the Canadian mountains. Average Lassie film with the wonder-dog whimpering in a cute way and Kiel, who played Jaws in the *Bond* movies, as the Indian who befriends the couple. Directed by William Beaudine 12.27 Weather  
12.30 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.35, 2.05, 2.35 and 3.05 Film: action from the final round of the Bell's Scottish Open at Gleneagles; 12.55 News; 1.00 Motor Racing: the final practice round for tomorrow's Foster's British Grand Prix at Silverstone; 1.55, 2.25 and 2.55 Racing from Lingfield; 4.55 Final Score  
5.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather 5.15 Regional news and sport

## BBC 2

6.50 Open University: Maths – Scaling and Powers 7.15 Birth of a Drug 8.40 Graphs, Networks and Design 8.05 Mathematics: The Coffield Story 8.30 Mechanics of Pain Relief 8.55 The Social Impact of Rapid Industrialisation 8.20 Physics: Gaseous Diffusion 8.45 Stone and Stantonbury 10.10 Nitrate in Drinking Water 10.35 iron Making and Bridge Building 11.00 Voyages of Discovery 11.25 *Geminal* by Emile Zola 11.50 Statistics: 12.15 Physics: Phonons 12.40 Looking Again at Large Samples 1.05 The Cornthwaite Story 1.30 Modern Art: Beckmann 1.55 Materials in Action: From Design to Manufacture 2.20 Ottoman Supremacy: the Seljuks, Istanbul 2.45 Mahabharat. Episode 14 of the 91-part dramatisation of India's greatest epic poem, which is watched by more than 100 million viewers in India and (rather fewer) in Hindi with English subtitles.  
3.20 Animation Now: The Big Snit. Canadian animated film about a suburban couple (7)  
3.30 Film: War and Peace (1956) starring Henry Fonda, Audrey Hepburn, Mel Ferrer, Herbert Lom, John Mills, Oscar Homolka. Filmed adaptation of Tolstoy's epic about a Russian family threatened by the Napoleonic invasion, partially rescued by the magnificent battle scenes and the fragile beauty of Miss Hepburn. Directed by King Vidor  
6.50 Romance and Revenge: South of the Border. A documentary about Hollywood's fascination with all things south of the Mexican border 7.15 NewsView. The day's main news stories presented by Moira Stuart; Lynette Litkgow reviews the week's news in pictures with subtitles. Weather

5.20 The Flying Doctors: The Wrangler's Daughter. Undermining drama series set in the Australian outback, where doctors have to fly out to their patients. A safari comes to town, causing chaos everywhere, and the horse wrangler's mentally handicapped daughter goes missing. To be repeated every month after *The Sweeper*. Reunited and Michelle plan to slip away to Switzerland but the rest of the cast goes with them. (7) (Ceefax)  
6.30 That's Showbusiness: Showbiz quiz in which celebrity panels battle it out to prove just how little they know about showbiz. Joining regular team captains Kenny Everett and Gloria Hunniford are Nerys Hughes, Eamonn Holmes, Jan Ravens and Neil Innes. (Ceefax)  
7.00 The Lee Dennis Laughter Show. In the last of the comedy series Lee displays his spot talents in sketches based on the *Blue Peter* presenters, satellite television, health clubs and the Yellow Pages advert. (Ceefax)  
7.30 Takeover! Bid. Bruce Forsyth introduces another round of the ruthless game show in which contestants try to take prizes from each other. (Ceefax)  
8.00 Miss Marple: A Pocketful of Rye. Agatha Christie's classic crime-solving OAP has to celebrate the centenary of Agatha Christie's birth. A City financier dies in his office, apparently poisoned. The only clue to his death is the rye he has in his

8.00 Jack Brymer: A Birthday Celebration. A tribute to the master comedian Jack Brymer, who is 75 this year. The film follows his career from the time he was a PE teacher to his becoming the principal harpist in Sir Thomas Beecham's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, a post he occupied for 16 years. Includes a complete performance of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, and discussion of the Brymer phenomenon with John Dankworth, Norman del Mar, Margaret Foot and Emma Johnson

9.10 Theatre Night: Pentecost. • The last stage play written by the Belfast writer Stewart Parker before his early death has four people marooned in a Belfast terrace house during the Ulster Workers' Council strike of 1974. The use of contemporary news film and the voice of the prime minister Harold Wilson denouncing the strike suggest a political play, but Parker was always able to see Northern Ireland in a perspective wider than the battles on the streets. While the merits of the strike do provoke a

debate between two of the characters from different sides of the sectarian divide, Parker leaves the here and now for excursions into symbolism in which the house and its occupants can be read as a metaphor for freedom, and Christian parallels are drawn in accordance with the title. By resurrecting a deceased former tenant, whose memory goes back to the first world war, Parker also supplies a historical dimension. Sometimes the weight of meaning overwhelms the drama but this is a richly textured piece, performed by an excellent cast. (Ceefax)  
10.35 Cricket. Tony Lewis introduces highlights of today's Benson and Hedges Cup final between Worcestershire and Lancashire at Lord's, with commentary by Richie Benaud and Jack Bannister  
11.25 Film: The Trial (1962). • Orson Welles meets Kafka in Zagreb and the deserted Gare d'Orsay railway station in Paris and the result is a film of extravagant baroque images, pulling out every trick of lighting and camera angle. Whether it is a suitable form in which to convey the nightmare of Joseph K (Anthony Perkins), arrested one morning for an unspecified crime, has divided critical opinion. *The Trial* has enjoyed a much higher reputation on the Continent than in Britain and the United States. Some say it is a masterpiece, others that content is swamped by extraneous stylistic indulgence. Either way it is an extraordinary piece of film making. Welles's most potent use of the medium since *Citizen Kane*. Welles not only directed but wrote the script, edited the film and played the important part of Hestler, the advocate. It says much for the rest of the cast, notably Perkins, Jeanne Moreau, Romy Schneider and a favourite Welles actor, Akim Tamiroff, that it is not overwhelmed. Ends at 1.25am

12.30 California Off-Beat. Includes a report on California High School's annual birdculling contest. Presented by Wayne Freedman  
1.00 Film: A Year at Oxford (1938, b/w), starring Robert Taylor, Maureen O'Sullivan and Vivien Leigh. A self-centred American student arrives at Oxford, gets brought down to reality, falls in love with his biggest rival's sister and is nearly expelled. Agreeable period piece, the first production of the pre-war invasion of Britain by MGM. Directed by Jack Conway  
2.55 Mr Rossi Goes Skiing. Animated feature in which Bruno Bozzetto's celebrated character takes a trip to the Alps.  
3.05 Channel 4 Racing from York and the Curragh. Derek Thompson presents five coverage of the 3.10, 3.40, 4.15 (John Smith's Magnet Cup) and 4.45 races from York and, at 3.55, the Kildegash Stud Irish Oaks from the Curragh  
5.10 Brookside. Omnibus edition (7). (Oracle)

5.20 The Harp in the South. The second part of a short series following the lives of an Irish/Australian family in the years after the second world war (7). Ends at 2.15

6.30 Tour de France 1990. Stage 13: Villard de Lans to St-Etienne, a distance of 154km

6.00 Comic Book 7.30 International Times 8.00 Transworld Sport 9.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line  
9.25 Australian Rules Football presented by Steve Roibard  
10.30 Hand in Hand. A programme for children, concentrating on those with hearing difficulties (7)  
11.00 Check Out. Weekly programme tackling consumer problems (7). (Oracle)  
11.30 Wagon Train (b/w). Vintage 1950s western series starring Ward Bond and Robert Horton

12.30 California Off-Beat. Includes a report on California High School's annual

birdculling contest. Presented by Wayne Freedman

1.00 Film: A Year at Oxford (1938, b/w)



# 4,000 Albanians get first taste of Western freedom

FROM PETER GREEN IN BRINDISI

FOUR thousand bewildered Albanian refugees arrived at the south Italian port of Brindisi yesterday after an overnight journey across the Adriatic Sea. They had been camped out in Tirana's Western embassies for two weeks, having rushed the gates and jumped the walls in an effort to leave Europe's last Stalinist state.

About 2,000 of the refugees had been in the West German embassy. They left Brindisi docks on three medically equipped relief trains bound for West Germany.

Meanwhile, the Maltese-flagged Orient Star, with about 1,000 refugees from the French embassy, was steaming directly for the French Mediterranean port of Marseilles. A group of 29 Albanians who had taken refuge in

the Greek embassy flew into Athens from Brindisi yesterday. Antonis Samaras, the foreign minister, welcomed them at the airport, and said Greece would do its utmost to provide "the welfare and care which they need".

First off the ship at Brindisi were a newborn baby, held by an Italian Red Cross nurse, and the child's beaming mother. Italian soldiers and Red Cross workers greeted refugees with hot tea, warm milk and cakes. "I don't know well why I left. Please, ask me later," said Agron Qelibari, aged 30, a car mechanic, who climbed the wall of the Western German embassy.

Few had any baggage, and a number were shoeless and shirtless. They queued eagerly for new clothes and packages of food. Some said they had

been political prisoners, but most appeared to want to leave because they could no longer stand living in a country they called a prison camp. Paride Derani, aged 65, left to escape the country's "tyrannous" regime. He said he spent 28 years in prison and was regularly tortured. He said that for seven months he ate only a slice of bread a day.

Geita, a 23-year-old factory

hand, said only Communists

party members and the Sigurimi secret police lived

well. "They eat much meat,

they earn much money and they hit us." Of her plans, she said: "First I want to make a holiday on a beach."

Some refugees appeared to have had their heads shaved recently, a punishment reserved for prisoners, but it was impossible to tell whether they included common-law criminals. Doctors tending to the first arrivals said they saw no signs of a large number of criminals or criminally insane among the refugees.

On the whole, they said, the refugees were in surprisingly good shape. "Many of the children were vomiting and suffered from diarrhoea and were dehydrated from the stay in the embassies," Dr Paolo Miano said. "The main problem is that they are hungry." While their general health was good, "their hygiene is very bad", he said.

At least 17 refugees were taken to hospital in Brindisi, and Dr Domenico Profico, said many had twisted ankles and broken bones from climbing over walls into the embassies.

Mr Gorbachev, in his first public comment on the resignations, said he had expected Mr Yeltsin's announcement and was not personally worried by his departure. "But I regret it politically," he added.

• Political chief: The Soviet Defence Minister yesterday announced the appointment of Colonel-General Nikolai Shlyaga, a hardline proponent of communist control of the military, as political chief of the armed forces, taking over from General Alexei Litshev, aged 63, who is retiring.

Gorbachev outflanked, page 3  
Leading article, page 13

## Gorbachev scorn as mayors quit

FROM REUTER IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev said yesterday that he felt contempt for communists who broke away from the party this week as the radical mayors of the country's two major cities announced they were joining the exodus.

As the party's 28th congress voted for a new Central Committee, Mr Gorbachev told the American CBS television network in a Kremlin interview: "Those who leave (the party) now and seek refuge elsewhere, I view with contempt. There's no question. I am not veering from my course and I have many supporters."

Mr Gorbachev was speaking during the final hours of a marathon congress in which his defeat of the conservatives was underscored by the withdrawal from the political stage of hard-line champion Yegor Ligachev. The departure of the mayors — Moscow's Gavril Popov and Anatoly Sobchak of Leningrad — came after the withdrawal from the party on Thursday by Boris

Yeltsin and a walkout by members of the radical Democratic Platform (DP).

Although the move, announced by the DP leader Yevgeny Shostakovsky, was a clear sign of the crumbling of the once monolithic party, it also brought a split in the platform itself with dozens of its congress delegates refusing to leave.

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nouncement and was not

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• Political chief: The Soviet

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of Colonel-General Nikolai

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of communist control of the

military, as political chief of

the armed forces, taking over

from General Alexei Litshev,

aged 63, who is retiring.

Several said they thought

that no members of the

Sigurimi, Albania's dreaded

secret police, were among

them. "They all jumped back

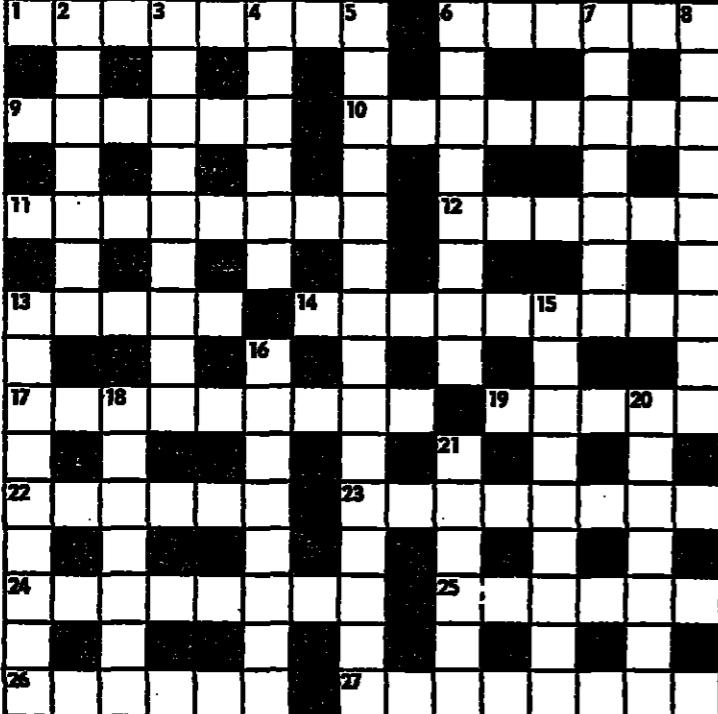
over the embassy wall," said

one young woman, who asked

not to be named.

Answers on page 15

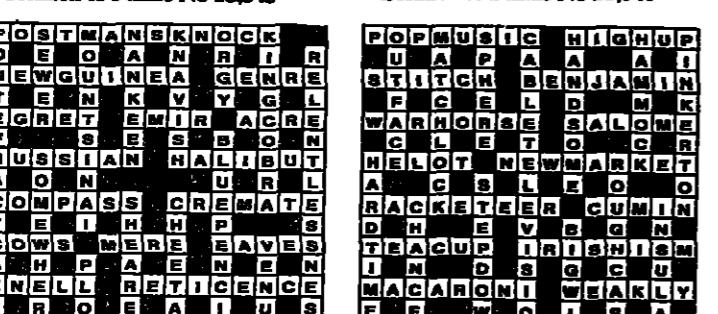
### THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,346



**ACROSS**

- Hurrying south to give battle (8).
- Interest of soldiers in France to capture Prince (6).
- A scale of quantity (6).
- Instrument for administering justice? (8).
- Insult my claim of competence in defence (8).
- Start to use inside tap (6).
- Poor Tom gets head of BBC to appear in *The Listener* (5).
- Paris is so devastated by eruptions (9).
- Position for drawing old friend (9).
- Grudge parking place outside (5).
- Curious round nut (6).
- Hero is in pain, with stomach upset (8).
- Look at the points of these canines (3-5).
- Definitely decided water was tops (6).
- Range of shelter unknown, I'm told, at first (6).
- Fifth accumulates with years spent down here (8).

Solution: Puzzle No 18,345



**SHEAFFER.** A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold nib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 496, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address.....

### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

#### ROKE

- Steam or smoke
- To transplant vegetables
- A bower's shovel

#### CLARABELLA

- A loose woman
- A steam engine
- An organ stop

#### WAMPISH

- To brandish
- Indecisive
- Red India bunting

#### AUTOPTIC

- Self-evident
- Obsessed with motor cars
- Pick your own fruit

Answers on page 15

### TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London 701\*

Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702\*

Dorset, Hants, IOW 703\*

Devon & Cornwall 704\*

Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Som 705\*

Berks, Bucks, Oxon 706\*

Bedf, Herts, Essex 707\*

North, Suff, Cambs, Cants 708\*

West Mid & Sth Glou & Gwent 709\*

Shrop, Herefs & Worcs 710\*

Central Midlands 711\*

East Midlands 712\*

Lincs & Humberside 713\*

Dyfed & Carmar 714\*

Gwent & Monm 715\*

N W England 716\*

W & S Yorks & Dales 717\*

N E England 718\*

Cumbri & Lake District 719\*

S W Scotland 720\*

W Central Scotland 721\*

E Central Scotland 722\*

Grampian & E Highlands 723\*

N W Scotland 724\*

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726\*

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8

seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12

seconds (off peak). Includes pollen count.

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C. London (within N & S Circs), 731

M-ways/roads M4-M1 732

M-ways/roads M1-M4 733

M-ways/roads M25-M4 734

M25 London Orbital only 735

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 736

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North East England 742

Scotland 743

Northern Ireland 744

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8

seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12

seconds (off peak).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,340



High summer: a young man sunbathing on the steps of Nelson's column in London's Trafalgar Square yesterday

## Britain heads for hot, dry weekend

By ALAN HAMILTON

HOT weather brought chaos for motorists yesterday with roads being closed as tarmac was melted by the heat which soared into the 80s.

The A34 in Hampshire, the main holiday route between the South Coast and the Midlands, had to be closed between Winchester and Newbury after the melting road surface made driving impossible.

Hot, dry weather for most of the country over the weekend was forecast yesterday by the London Weather Centre, and traffic jams to popular seaside resorts by the motoring organisations.

The balmy conditions enjoyed by southern districts during the past two days are expected to spread to Scotland and Northern Ireland, although eastern coasts are likely to remain cool.

Yesterday's temperatures in the south failed to reach those of Thursday, when 29.2C (85F) was recorded in Cardiff. South Wales and the Severn area were, none the less, among the warmest places with 29C (84F) recorded at Ross-on-Wye. In much of Scotland the weather remained disappointingly cool, with Edinburgh recording only 14C (57F), and Shetland struggling to reach 15C (59F), about average for the time of year in the northern isles.

The past two days have failed to approach the records set in July last year, when the temperature at Heathrow airport touched 34.2C (93F).

But the warm spell is pleasing farmers in most areas, with haymaking under way and winter barley harvesting ten days early in the south. Some Welsh farmers, however, have reported a heavy crop of unusually large potatoes, leading to fears of low prices.

Firemen in Northamptonshire are answering dozens of calls throughout the county because alarms are being set off by an invasion of thunderflies.

A spokesman for the brigade said that at least 50 per cent of call-outs over the past two days had been to faulty alarms being set off by the insects, which shelter in smoke alarms during heatwaves and set them off.

Firemen in Northamptonshire are answering dozens of calls throughout the county because alarms are being set off by an invasion of thunderflies.

Answers on page 15

<img alt="Advertisement for The Times Guide to 1992: Britain in a Europe without frontiers. It features a large '1992' and the text



# Traditional values must be Fifa's goal

"IT WAS the best of times, it was the worst of times." And in the end it was a tale of two countries. Argentina and West Germany contested a World Cup final that I wish we could all forget. In their different ways, both finalists defied the proper spirit and purpose of the game. Many feel that their peculiar passage to the final, through the OK Corral of penalties, also defied that spirit and purpose.

For four weeks Italia '90 gave me some of the sweet drama and passion and sadness of sport. It also gave me the down side, and, maybe, those down reflections will be the enduring ones, because they were predominant in that awful final.

The tournament did not make history. It was long on drama, short on adventure. It had great players, but not so many as we have seen in previous World Cups. It had no abundance of great referees and we needed them. It was short on goals, and short on great ones. But there were still some to savour, by Platt, Stojkovic, Matthaus, Milla, Schillaci, Baggio, for example.

Most of all, in this "short" list,

Italia '90 was very short of great teams, and short of the great tactics and strategies that go with them.

On the positive side, the tournament seemed to be well organised. (I have been to major sports events that were not, and the cracks always show.) Security was effective, thank goodness, and that has helped English clubs back into Europe next year. Public interest, world wide, was very high; we saw again the immense impact of sport in and on society. Great sporting occasions, events and issues touch people's lives – will politicians ever learn that?

There were thrills, unforgettable moments, great sporting deeds. But the good and the bad were always mixed, and they often included more than a dash of the ugly.

Inevitably, much pressure was on the host nation, the *Azzurri*. I loved to watch Baggio, a rare find, and Schillaci, with the eyes and appetite of a wolf, and there was talent throughout the side. But why were they so short on ambition? Why so content to settle for one goal, when they should have scorched the earth towards



## COMMENTARY

SEBASTIAN COE

their opponents' net? And what was the need, with so much skill, for ugly tackles and time wasting? In the end, they were victims (once again) of their own doubts, or perhaps of the weight of Italian passions and expectations.

Another positive aspect has to be the African arrival. Cameroon caught everyone's imagination (although, we regretted the harsh side to their game). Was there ever a "superstar" like Milla? Such a fluent player, one we should have seen in his prime. Before too long, an African team surely will win a World Cup final.

My main interest was in the way players reacted to performing at this peak of ambition and competition. Mentally, I walked out with them into the stadium, into the glare of attention. I felt the effort of concentration to produce their relaxed best amid the heat

and tension. Of course, I was not there, and could not see behind the scenes.

I saw only the gladiators in their arenas, in the fierce Italian sun. Sometimes, the strained, gaunt faces reminded me of their Roman slave forebears, waiting for the thumbs up or down from the stands, from the benches. Not many looked to be enjoying their sport in the stadium.

One exception was Paul Gascoigne; how one of that rare breed of people known to millions by an affectionate nickname. His approach, his behaviour, his performance, all filled me with admiration. This is no ordinary player. Here he was, on the largest football stage of all, parading his brave talent with more purpose than he sometimes showed at White Hart Lane. Clearly, this is a talent and personality that wants to perform at the highest level.

My heart went out to him in that marvellous semi-final against the Germans, when Beckenbauer and his men committed against him a professional foul. "Gasza" chased and tackled, a player dived, and the German bench (chorus-like) erupted. Their reactions may have got Gascoigne the yellow card, and he knew at once he was out of the final, if England were to get there. We saw then his numb, disbelieving tears and the picture filled papers.

Some judged his reaction out of place. What nonsense. Here was a player who must have felt cheated out of a place in a World Cup final, maybe, his only chance of playing in the "biggest game" in his profession.

Sometimes, commentators and watchers expect too much of the performer. Sport is an emotional business. In something like a World Cup, the best of players are close to the nerve ends. For a young man like Gascoigne, in those circumstances, tears were inevitable. In a less controlled player, the reaction would have been rage.

The German diving and drama

schools were seen again in that final. They contributed to the two sending-offs. I thought the Argentinians guilty of unfair play, but it was not the worst we have seen in this or previous tournaments. It is the German behaviour that will live longer in my memory. I believe they had a team that deserved to win this world championship, but I also believe their approach ill before the title.

My campaign for fair play in modern sport, for "sportsmanship", is well known to readers of *The Times*. From this point of view, the tournament was a happy one for the English. It was a timely innovation for Fifa to award a fair play cup, because this is the big battle to fight and win for the future of football and sport in general. Italia '90 showed us on many occasions the dangers and the problems; not least, in the final.

What a thrill for England to win that award. I think we deserved it. Players like Lineker, in particular, and Walker and Wright, demonstrated the old, essential values of sporting competition – playing to the rules, taking the knocks and referees' decisions in their stride,

I like the thought of two referees for football matches at world level. Therein may lie the solution to a vital concern. Before the next World Cup, in football's new frontier, the United States, some such action is required to help restore the old values in game that has demonstrated again its continuing ability, through television, to gain new audiences.

For such audiences, drama is king, and the four weeks of the World Cup provided plenty. But sport has to give more if it is to stay true to its traditions. We hope and look for the old and new skills for style and grace, and for sportsmanship. Do we ask too much?

Worcestershire attempt to lift elusive cricket cup when they meet Lancashire in Benson & Hedges final

**Botham's relish for big occasion may be crucial**

By ALAN LEE

**CRICKET CORRESPONDENT**

BACK in 1963, when the Benson & Hedges cup was regarded with such lofty suspicion that Wisden declined to credit the sponsors, Worcestershire reached the inaugural final and lost. This is a distressing habit they have been practising ever since. Today, at Lord's, they contest their sixth cup final, still pursuing their first win.

Since 1963, when Worcestershire's downfall was plotted by one E. R. Dexter, the club has won the county championship five times and the Sunday league three times. In the late 1980s, they became the most glamorous and accomplished sides in the country, yet all their money, talent and influence could not buy a cup triumph.

The bookmakers, with the support of recent form, believe they will be beaten yet again today, when their Ben-

### Lord's teams

Lancashire (front): D P Hughes (captain), G D Milla, M A Atherton, G Fowler, G D Lloyd, N H Fairbrother, M Watkinson, Wesam Alrami, P A J DePrilas, I D Austin, W K Heggs, P J Martin, P J W Allott, G A Hick, D B D'Olivera, I T Botham, G J Rhodes, R M Atkinson, P Newson, S R Lomax, R D'Olivera, G J W Botham, S J Rhodes, P Bent, D A Leatherdale, G M McLean, P Bent, D A Leatherdale, Umpires J H Hampshire and N T Flaws.

son and Hedges Cup opponents are Lancashire, who have won five cup finals while Worcestershire have been losing five. I have a hunch they are wrong.

No one can doubt Lancashire's credentials to win.

Over the past five years they have carefully constructed a team with no obvious weakness in overs cricket. Worcestershire, however, have left behind an inauspicious start to the season and come to Lord's in their most efficient form.

Cricketers being a superstitious breed, they had also

come with the intention of altering the routines which brought them such a conspicuous lack of success in the past. Last night, for instance, they abandoned the traditional team dinner and early curfew. "It was left entirely to the players," explained the club chairman, Duncan Fearnley. "They decided they wanted to treat this one like any normal game. We have had too many finals with the big hype, the formal dinner, the early night and then nothing happening. So the lads were left to their own devices once they had travelled down in the coach.

Fearnley was on the playing staff when Worcestershire reached that first Gillette Cup final 27 years ago. He did not make the final XI, being more involved with helping to win the second team championship at the time. He only played two cup ties before his retirement in 1968.

Graeme Hick's urge to compensate for his failure in 1983 is another factor. So too is the news that Worcestershire's chronic injury problems are clearing at an opportune time, while Lancashire have suddenly developed crises of their own.

Worcestershire have been without their three senior seam bowlers, Dilley, Radford and Newport, for much of the season but all three could be in the side today.

Lancashire travelled south with doubts persisting about Graeme Fowler and Paul Allott. They would be immeasurably weaker without Fowler's unconventional brilliance with the bat and Allott's conventional economy with the ball.

• Graham Dilley is to have a fourth operation in two years on his troublesome right knee next Tuesday.

### BENSON & HEDGES CUP 1990 AVERAGES

#### Worcestershire batting and fielding

	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	C/s
I T Botham	4	15	15	1.50	1	1	1
M J Weston	3	10	10	1.00	1	1	1
T S Curtis	6	1	283	57.60	3	1	1
G A Hick	1	1	164	41.00	6	2	2
M J Watkinson	1	1	125	32.22	2	1	1
P J Newson	1	1	54	28.00	2	1	1
S R Lomax	1	1	48	24.00	4	1	1
R D'Olivera	2	1	51	23.50	2	1	1
D B D'Olivera	2	1	20	13.00	1	1	1
G J Rhodes	4	2	109	27.25	3	1	1
S J Rhodes	2	1	77	16.00	2	1	1
R M Atkinson	1	1	57	16.00	2	1	1
I T Botham	39	7	160	52.00	4	2	2
S R Lomax	35	7	143	42.00	4	2	2
R D'Olivera	45	1	217	51.75	1	1	1
G J Rhodes	21	1	102	47.00	2	1	1
D A Leatherdale	2	0	0	0.00	0	0	0
PLAYED IN ONE MATCH	5	5	1050	47.00	10	5	5
ALSO BOWLED	R D Stump	8-1-80-0					

Compiled by Richard Lockwood

Source: TCCB/BAD



Neale: living a double life

automatic and to give players input in decision-making" – he learned much from Norman Gifford, his former captain. He had no qualms about taking Botham and Dilley on board. He had shown himself capable of strong leadership in his second season as captain, dismissing Younis Ahmed, then a matchwinner, after he bet against his own side.

For 11 years Neale attempted to combine cricket and football, which led to a certain amount of strife. Not with Worcestershire or his wife, with whom his honeymoon in 1976 consisted of one day's leave from training, but certain football directors and managers. One or two come in for harsh criticism in his autobiography, *A Double Life*, in which Taylor has written a foreword.

There is no such criticism of Worcestershire, nor of the majority of players Neale has led with conspicuous success since 1982. In addition to what he has gleaned from Taylor – "I try not to be too

includes Botham, Dilley and Hick is self-evident.

Taylor's advice knew no bounds. "Be clever enough to act the peasant at times," he told the young left back, who had just graduated from university to the fourth division with a degree in Russian. "The topics of conversation will be football, sex and television," Taylor said. "By all means adapt to that, but never lose what is going on in your mind." Neale did not, which, considering that five players in the Worcestershire side have degrees, is just as well.

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He is now the longest-serving captain in the country and has twice led Worcestershire to victory in the championship and the Sunday league. He is all too aware that his county and Glamorgan have yet to win a final at Lord's. He was playing when Worcestershire were last in the Benson and Hedges Cup final.

England ring changes

ENGLAND have made three changes from the party that won the inaugural European women's cup in Denmark last year to defend the trophy this year.

They open against the Netherlands at Leicester on Wednesday and play Denmark and Ireland on the following two days.

ENGLAND PARTY: J Powell (Yorkshire), G Nye, G Smith (Middlesex), C Taylor (Yorkshire), W Watson (East Midlands), A Chamberlain (West Midlands), C Cooke, A Elder (Yorkshire), G Jades (Lancashire),

DRAWS: Colm J Frazer (Kirkby), Kirby Warkworth, Iman Dunstan (Lancashire), G Ainsworth (Yorkshire), C Barra (Surrey), J Chamberlain (West Midlands), C Cooke, A Elder (Yorkshire), G Jades (Lancashire), Langleybury.

TROWBRIDGE (final day of three): Minor Counties drew with the Indians

GARY Brown, aged 25, the younger brother of Middlesex's Keith Brown, followed his hundred on the first day with a superbly compiled innings of 89 not out here as the Minor Counties safely thwarted any Indian hopes of dismissing them cheaply. They had started 219 runs behind and, although the first wicket fell in the fourth over, a more controlled second-wicket partnership of 157 by Brown, of Durham, and Folland, of Devon, soon assured a draw.

The Indians, in fact, had to catch a flight from Heathrow to Glasgow where they play Scotland today, and the match ended early, at 4pm, with Minor Counties 24 runs ahead at 243 for two.

India's bowlers delivered accurately enough – Kapil Dev conceding just 20 runs off 16 overs – while posing little threat. But this was a perfect bowling pitch up which Brown, Folland and later Peter Cook applied themselves admirably. It is certainly no wonder that the

Neale: living a double life

automatic and to give players input in decision-making" – he learned much from Norman Gifford, his former captain. He had no qualms about taking Botham and Dilley on board. He had shown himself capable of strong leadership in his second season as captain, dismissing Younis Ahmed, then a matchwinner, after he bet against his own side.

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DRAWS: Colm J Frazer (Kirkby), Kirby W







Dick Hinder discusses winning and losing with Bill O'Gorman, trainer of the record-seeking Timeless Times

# The freedom of the individual

THAT plucky little chestnut Timeless Times has fired the public imagination as he closes inexorably on the record of 16 two-year-old wins in a season held jointly by The Bard (1885) and Provideo (1984).

Since making a winning debut at Wolverhampton in April, the colt, owned by Alan Belshaw head of the engineering company, Times of Wigan, has galloped to 14 victories from 16 races, a fine advertisement for the bold attacking policy of his Newmarket trainer, Bill O'Gorman.

Even a defeat at Windsor last Monday can be seen as only a minor setback. "With hindsight, it was a waste of time going to Windsor as we came up against a really good two-year-old in Line Engaged," O'Gorman said. "I'm going to give Timeless Times a rest for a week or two while we sort out some suitable races for him. We've got 15 weeks in which to win three races for the record, so I'm far from despondent."

"Ideally, I would have liked to have got the record out of the way quickly so I could give the colt a decent break, and then maybe later have a crack at the Laurel Futurity in Wigan in the autumn."

O'Gorman also master-minded Provideo's successful campaign, which begs the inevitable question of a comparison between the two. "Provideo was brave enough in his races, but he could be very bad-tempered, a real handful at times, which added to the pressures. Timeless Times is much easier to train. He's tough, competitive and relaxed, that's why he takes his races so well. Even the travelling doesn't bother him. He takes it all in his stride."

That O'Gorman has trained two such prolific horses is far from a coincidence. He loves to compete, scoring any signs of losing which he believes exists in this country. Too often the commercial element takes over as people try to protect their capital value.

"A horse gets beaten in a classic trial after a promising two-year-old career and is immediately discounted as a failure. Racing isn't a game of conkers where you lose the lot," he said.

The American attitude is far better. They accept that they cannot win every time and allow their horses to keep competing until they run back into form."

## THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

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Straight from the horse's mouth: Timeless Times offers Bill O'Gorman some thoughts on a season which has already produced 14 wins

There are no frills with O'Gorman. He is his own man, an individual who enjoys a free hand from his owners. "I have a band of loyal owners, some from the Middle East, who leave me to get on with the job. If I have a horse fit and ready to race, I want him to run. If I was prevented from doing so by an owner I would have to look seriously at my relationship with him."

The Newmarket trainer conceded: "I've made plenty of mistakes. Remember, Provideo was beaten several times before he equalled the record for us. But at least those mistakes were mine."

O'Gorman's season has been solely about Timeless Times. His Newmarket stable houses another talented juvenile in Mac's Imp who, after an impressive success in the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot, was no match for Muyahid in Thursday's July Stakes.

O'Gorman took the defeat philosophically: "The winner was very impressive. That's the difference between Guineas form and sprinting form,

which Mac's Imp represents. My fellow will drop back to four furlongs now. Mind you, if you could combine the constitution of Timeless Times and the speed of Mac's Imp, that would be one hell of a two-year-old."

Both Timeless Times (\$15,000) and Mac's Imp (\$25,000) came from a batch of 13 yearlings purchased in the bargain basement at last year's Keeneland Sales.

O'Gorman, who operates from a plush new stable in the Hamilton Road complex, explained that for economic reasons he sought precocious young horses as there was some expectation of an early return on the investment.

"We tend to stay away from the stably-bred types. So often horses with very little ability come disguised as slow maturing, and look at the expenditure lost when a horse doesn't run in his first season."

O'Gorman is very much the pragmatist, who specialises in sprinters and makes a professional job of it. He admits: "I've no time for National Hunt racing and I don't even

like long-distance races on the Flat because I hate to see horses finish distressed."

O'Gorman is, however, not sentimental about his horses. He equates himself to an experienced motor mechanic, reasoning: "The horses are well looked after, the engines tuned. It's my job to minimize damage to the machines."

Far from cocking a snook at the Arabs, O'Gorman acknowledged both sides of the coin in their heavy influence on British racing. He was apprehensive of the way their big battalions tended to overwhelm the middle ranks which, he believed, left the lower echelon too often unable to fulfil its potential.

On the positive side, he pointed to the Newmarket area where so many studs and stables had been upgraded. "Because the Arabs want showpieces this has encouraged others to improve their properties too, bringing valuable industry to the local people," he said.

O'Gorman cites Jack Berry as a trainer who has prospered without Arab patronage. "I take my hat off to him. He has taken racing by the scruff of

the neck and is enjoying tremendous success through sheer hard work. He is a marvellous example to us all."

Following a happy 10-year association with Tony Ives, now in Hong Kong, the trainer has great faith in his young stable jockey, Alan Munro, reaching the top.

"I am very impressed with Alan. He rides extremely well and is ambitious. But it is also important that he had the solid groundwork before joining me. Sometimes you have to question the attitude of young people in this country. Too many youngsters enter racing thinking that one morning they are going to wake up wearing racing colours. You have to work for it. There must be a day-to-day commitment."

"In the United States if a youngster sees a gleaming new Cadillac, he'll say: 'One day, I'll own one of those.' Here, if someone sees a Rolls-Royce they are more likely to run down the side of it with a penknife."

For practical reasons, the idea is likely to be shelved for a few years. But it would be a great shame if we lost such a talented free spirit as Bill O'Gorman.

The trainer is clearly attracted to the American racing scene. "Over here, we have a great product, but it is badly

marketed. We should be selling the spectacle to the public, not the continual emphasis on betting. Families should be encouraged to come along by offering reasonable admission prices and decent catering."

He pointed out that in America a couple of dollars would get you a grandstand seat and even with 70,000 spectators at the Breeders' Cup meeting it was possible to enjoy a meal in comfort.

"The Americans are so good at involving the public with the celebrities and horses," he said, adding ruefully: "If Mac's Imp had been trained by D Wayne Lukas, he would be well on his way to his first million dollars in prize-money by now."

O'Gorman is tempted to try his skill training there, but his wife, Elaine, is less keen. Also, his daughter, Emma, is pursuing her career as an apprentice rider in Britain and the younger sons, Joey and P J, have to be considered.

The race, staged as part of the Turf Club's bicentennial celebrations, brings together many outstanding former jockeys. Yves Saint-Martin, rider Captain Joe, is on Royal Climber while T P Burns partner Nasir. Despite Piggott's enduring popularity in Ireland, it may be

Anthony Phelps

## Hellenic primed to give Stoute fifth Irish Oaks success

From OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

HELLENIC can overcome doubts about her ability to handle fast ground by winning the Kildangan on Friday at Royal Ascot, the fourth of the Irish two-year-olds in the group of the famous Stoute, that particular Classic has worked out so well she must be considered a serious contender today.

Atoll, the winner of the Italian 1,000 Guineas and Oaks, comes looking for a third European classic but the opposition here will be a good deal stronger. The best she can hope for is a minor placing, a result which applies equally to Crookshank, the best of the main-trained horses.

The small favorite for the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot only to disappoint, tackles the Irish two-year-olds in the group the three Sherman Cup Stakes over five furlongs. If she could be relied upon to reproduce her impressive win over Melodist, who dead-heated with Diminuendo in 1988,

Stoute would have wished for rain rather than the blistering sunshine of yesterday, but on form Hellenic has outstanding credentials. She was a six-length winner at Royal Ascot from her stable companion Ivera, with Fairplay

well behind.

Hellenic was supplemented for today's race after winning the 1,000 Guineas at Haydock last Saturday by six lengths from Craving Heart. Her trainer Clive Britain blamed her Royal Ascot eclipse upon her "boiling over" in the preliminaries.

The second supplementary entry is the Paul Cole-trained Knight's Baroness, who ran on

Going: good to firm Draw: no advantage

3.56 KILDANGAN STUD IRISH OAKS (Group 1; h2122, 400; 1m 4f (12 runners))

1 246-95 ANNE CAIRNS 20 (10) L. D. Edwards 5-0 2 247-95 ADDINGTON 14 (20) L. D. Edwards 5-0 3 251-79 BESIDE THE RIVER 15 (18) L. D. Edwards 5-0 4 252-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 5 253-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 6 254-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 7 255-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 8 256-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 9 257-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 10 258-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 11 259-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 12 260-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 13 261-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 14 262-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 15 263-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 16 264-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 17 265-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 18 266-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 19 267-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 20 268-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 21 269-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 22 270-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 23 271-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 24 272-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 25 273-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 26 274-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 27 275-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 28 276-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 29 277-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 30 278-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 31 279-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 32 280-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 33 281-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 34 282-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 35 283-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 36 284-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 37 285-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 38 286-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 39 287-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 40 288-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 41 289-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 42 290-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 43 291-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 44 292-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 45 293-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 46 294-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 47 295-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 48 296-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 49 297-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 50 298-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 51 299-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 52 300-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 53 301-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 54 302-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 55 303-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 56 304-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 57 305-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 58 306-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 59 307-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 60 308-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 61 309-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 62 310-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 63 311-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 64 312-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 65 313-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 66 314-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 67 315-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 68 316-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 69 317-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 70 318-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 71 319-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 72 320-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 73 321-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 74 322-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 75 323-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 76 324-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 77 325-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 78 326-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 79 327-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 80 328-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 81 329-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 82 330-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 83 331-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 84 332-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 85 333-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 86 334-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 87 335-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 88 336-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 89 337-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 90 338-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 91 339-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 92 340-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 93 341-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 94 342-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 95 343-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 96 344-79 CROOKSHANK 08 (12) Ivera 5-0 97 345-79 CROOK





# FOOTBALL

## The Swindon affair ends hopes of FA and League merger

By LOUISE TAYLOR

SWINDON Town has inadvertently ended any hopes of the Football Association and the League merging.

"Before the Swindon affair there was a remote chance," Trevor Phillips, the commercial director of the League, said yesterday, "but now there is no hope."

The League demoted Swindon from the first to the third division in June after the club had breached League financial regulations. However when Swindon appealed the three FA councillors sitting on the appeal board altered their punishment to relegation to the second division.

As a result the League has been left feeling considerably aggrieved, especially as before the appeal last month it had received private assurances

from the FA to the effect that it supported the original punishment.

Following a joint League and FA liaison meeting at the FA's summer conference in Blackpool yesterday, Andy Williamson, the assistant secretary of the League, said: "Our people registered their disappointment at the decision."

Arthur Sandford, the chief executive of the League, said the FA and League were to hold a further joint meeting shortly to "discuss the principles arising out of this issue".

The League is expected to hold a further commission of inquiry into individuals at Swindon shortly before the start of the new season. It is expected, up to 20 people

could be charged, including around 12 players.

With Sandford favouring close links with the FA, Graham Kelly having moved from the League to become chief executive of the FA, and bearing in mind the need for unity in implementing the potentially costly recommendations contained in the Taylor Report into the Hillsborough disaster, this looked an ideal time for a possible fusion of the two governing bodies.

After the Swindon affair, that is now out of the question. As Phillips said: "Looking in from the outside anyone involved in industry would say that logically they should merge, but they are too many vested interests and people protecting their own patch for that to happen now."

The League will continue to negotiate with the FA as to the percentage of the £26 million the FA is due to earn from a four-year television contract with British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) it will allocate to the 92 clubs.

Sandford said: "The matter is still under discussion, but it looks like the FA could give League clubs a total of £2.2 million a year, with a further £4 million over four years going to the Football Trust."

The League received good news regarding meeting the cost of Lord Justice Taylor's recommendations from the government yesterday. The 2.5 per cent relief on the pools betting duty announced at the budget last March is to be back dated by seven weeks.

## Taylor decision due on Monday

GRAHAM Taylor is expected to be named England manager on Monday (Louise Taylor writes).

A press conference is likely to be convened in London to install Taylor, the manager of Aston Villa, as the successor to Bobby Robson.

While Taylor prepared for his daughter's wedding today, Bert Millichip, the Football Association chairman, and Doug Ellis, the Aston Villa chairman, used the FA's summer conference in Blackpool as a forum to finalise the matter of compensating for Taylor's premature departure from Villa Park.

The pair had lengthy and apparently amicable talks yes-

### POLO

## Cowdray overcome the Bears

By JOHN WATSON

WITH a 7-2 victory over the Black Bears, Cowdray Park edged into first place in League IV of the Davidoff British Open yesterday, overtaking Sladmore by one point.

Pendell and CS Brooks are neck and neck at the head of League I; Diamond Dust just lead Rio Pardo in League II; and Rosamundo remain comfortably at the top of League III.

Urs Schwarzenbach's Black Bears have been unlucky this season. Having lost Dale Smuckler with an injury before the championships, they brought in J. Boote, the Argentine seven-goaler, and moved their American No. 2, Mike Azzaro, into the pivot position. Martin Brown, their steady back, has now looked entirely up to this arrangement. Azzaro, who plays off a strong handicap and looks more like a nine, was in brilliant form, leading most of the Bears' assaults on the smooth and resilient River Ground at Cowdray Park yesterday. He was the first to score and the Bears took many goalshots that missed by inches.

Meanwhile, their opponents, the better balanced squad and formidably mounted from Lord Cowdray's string, were settling increasingly well into their familiarly impressive team play. The indefatigable Paul Withers was never far from the ball, Badioli and Ezcurra, their central Latin American duo, interchanged with great skill, and Pearson at No. 1 was quick to take advantage of their passes. By reading in time they were up 3-1.

The Cowdray players then enjoyed a dominating fourth-chukka, in which Badioli, riding Patti, Lord Cowdray's long strides, and Ezcurra, more found the Bear flags twice, and Withers once. There was no score in the fifth and Azzaro narrowed the Bears' deficit with a 30-yarder in the last.

The cup holders, Tramontana, beat Giscours 10-6

(League I) and at the Royal Berkshire Club Hildon beat Labergorce, 17-9 (League III).

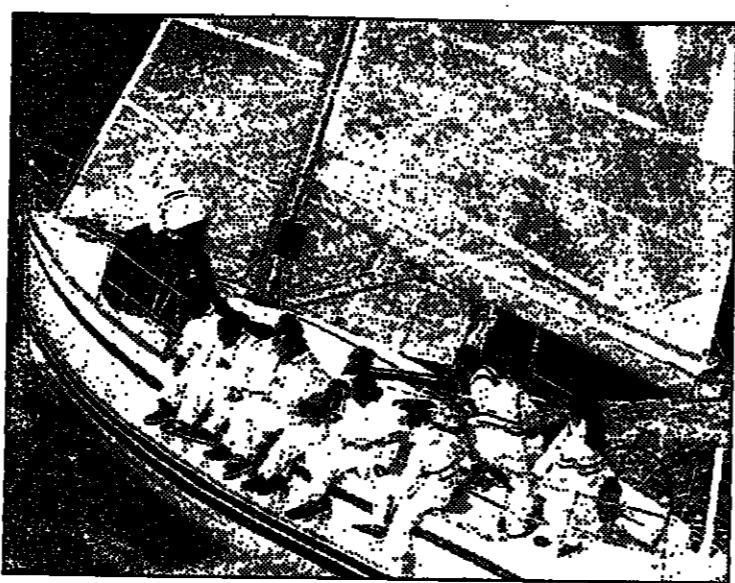
COWDRAY PARK: 1, Hon C Pearson (2, 2, 2, 2); 2, J. Boote (3); 3, M. Azzaro (5); back, P. Withers (4).

BLACK BEARS: 1, Urs Schwarzenbach (1, 2, 1, 2); 2, M. Azzaro (5); back, P. Withers (4); 3, M. Brown (5); 4, J. Boote (2); 5, J. Ezcurra (3); 6, D. Smuckler (2); 7, M. Badioli (5); 8, P. Withers (4); 9, J. Ezcurra (3); 10, M. Brown (5); 11, M. Azzaro (5); 12, P. Withers (4); 13, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 14, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 15, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 16, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 17, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 18, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 19, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 20, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 21, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 22, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 23, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 24, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 25, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 26, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 27, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 28, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 29, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 30, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 31, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 32, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 33, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 34, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 35, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 36, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 37, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 38, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 39, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 40, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 41, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 42, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 43, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 44, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 45, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 46, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 47, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 48, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 49, Urs Schwarzenbach (1); 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# In at the deep end while they play Devil's Advocate

After 25 years of selling powerboats, Pat and Harry Dodd decided to try their hand at yacht racing. They became hooked on wind power and bought a racer that is to cruising what a GT Ferrari might be to touring, reports Malcolm McKeag



Cutting an expensive dash: the crew on deck in matching oilskins

**W**hat do the couple who market the quintessential luxury powerboats, Sunseekers, do on their day off? Race yachts. Harry and Pat Dodd, who sell and distribute more than £8 million-worth of powerboats each year, after 25 years of living with power cruisers, discovered the joys of sailing.

Typically, having realised what they have been missing, they have gone in at the deep end with a 45ft racing yacht, full-time skipper, top-gum crew and co-ordinated uniforms. And they started only last year. "That's how we do everything," Mrs Dodd says.

A couple whose success is self-induced, Mr and Mrs Dodd enjoy the toys which reaching the top of their business can bring: both have pilot's licences, and use their Piper Malibu to fly to the Mediterranean where they have a house, a boat and another business, selling Sunseeker powerboats.

The Dodds' conversion to sailing began when a customer turned his tastes the other way. "We took a sailing boat in a part-exchange and thought we'd give it a try," Mr Dodd explained. "But we don't like second-hand things, so changed that for a new one." The new one was a 44ft Gib Sea 442, a cruising yacht which they kept at Poole Harbour, Dorset, where their Sunseeker business is based. They cruised a little, then raced at Cowes Week on the Isle of Wight.

"We're both fairly competitive: we like to win; and because the motorboat business has us working virtually every weekend we haven't really time for cruising, so we

decided to go for something a bit racier."

That is a 45ft Bénéteau 455, a cruiser-racer that is to cruising what a GT Ferrari might be to motor touring — the lines of the yacht were styled by Pininfarina, "I" stands for Bruce Farr, arguably the world's most successful racing yacht designer (his designs took the top three places in the Whitbread race, top score at last year's Admiral's Cup and dominate the international 50ft circuit). The Dodds chose the 45 because it was in Mrs Dodd's phrase, "both stylish and competitive", which might not be a bad description of how the owners of Devil's Advocate see themselves.

"In fact," Mr Dodd says, "we're already thinking we might go even more competitive, next time." The stylish interior, with its richly varnished mahogany and its less-practical cream leather upholstery, is already showing signs of the hard wear any racing boat interior endures as booted crewmen drag sails on deck.

Below, where the brochure says Mrs Dodd should be entertaining guests, she re-packs the billowing acres of nylon spinnaker, ready for the next hoist. Buttered rolls, six-packs and the odd anticipatory bottle of champagne are all that occupy, but far from fill, the fridge and ice box; the cooker looks decidedly unused. "I suppose the interior is a bit wasted on us," Mrs Dodd says.

The fact that he knows little of yacht racing, and must therefore sit tight while his crew sail his boat for him, does not worry Mr Dodd. "I am learning fast, and if we want to win we have to have good people sailing the boat."

Racing a 45ft yacht is a skilled job for ten talented people, looking after her a full-time task for one. When he decided to go yacht racing, Mr Dodd knew he had not the skills to manage the former, nor

the time for the latter. He found himself a skipper who could do both, and together they plan Devil's Advocate's itinerary and programme. The skipper finds the crew.

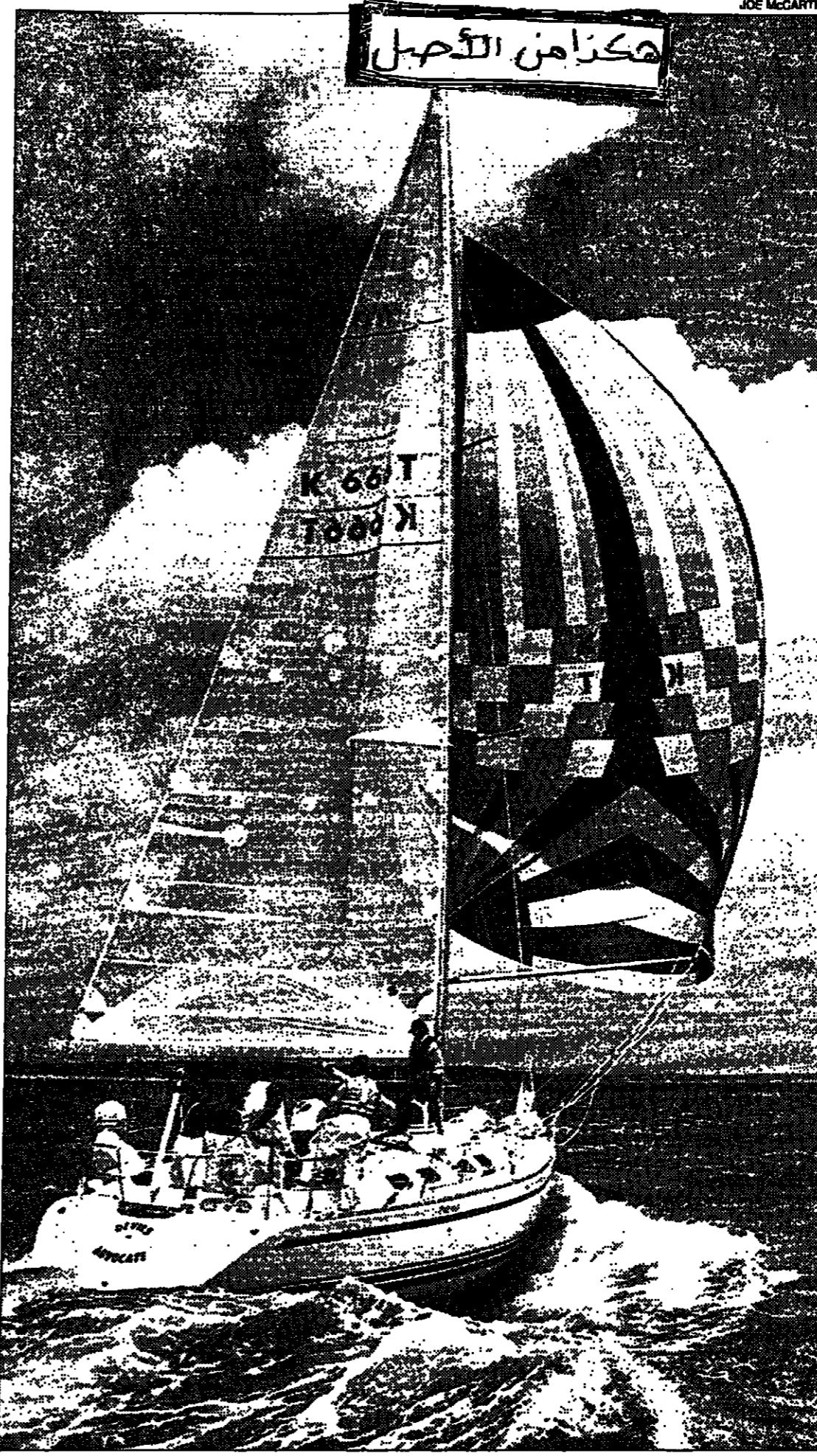
At this level of racing, somewhere below the so-called grand prix circuit where crews are fully professional and a season's racing campaign can see away £100,000, but somewhere above the strictly weekend hobby level, where the owner owns the boat and the crew help pay the running expenses, Mr Dodd reckons a newcomer to the game, entering at the level he has chosen, should plan to spend 10 per cent over the cost of the boat simply on running her.

Equipped for racing, a Bénéteau 455 costs around £123,000 plus VAT. Waterproofs costs, say, £200 a set; a boat like Devil's Advocate will need 14 suits. While crews will have their own, they may not be of the right colour; if an owner wants his yacht to cut a dash, matching oilskins are part of the price.

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There she blows: Devil's Advocate, top yacht over all at least weekend's Bénéteau Regatta at Cowes

## STATISTICAL LOGBOOK OF THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

- Length: 45ft (14.2m)
- Beam: 14ft (4.25m)
- Draft: 7ft (2.15m)
- Sail area: 1,120sq ft (104sq m)
- Accommodation: Three internal arrangements available, with 2, 3 or 4 double cabins. Ideal for four or six people to cruise; racing crew is 10 to 12.
- Displacement: 10.5 tons
- Designer: Bruce Farr
- Exterior styling and internal design: Pininfarina
- Construction: made of fibreglass
- Price: from £123,000 plus VAT
- Builder: Bénéteau, France
- UK supplier: Bénéteau UK Ltd, Cougar Quay, School Lane, Hamble, Hants SO3 5JD. Telephone 0703 454022

A new generation of electronic safety equipment has been developed for the fast location and recovery of men overboard

## The danger of complacency

**T**he call all yachtsmen dread is "Man overboard!" Too many accidents are caused by complacency and ignorance, often within sight of land, and even the best-prepared crews have found themselves facing disaster.

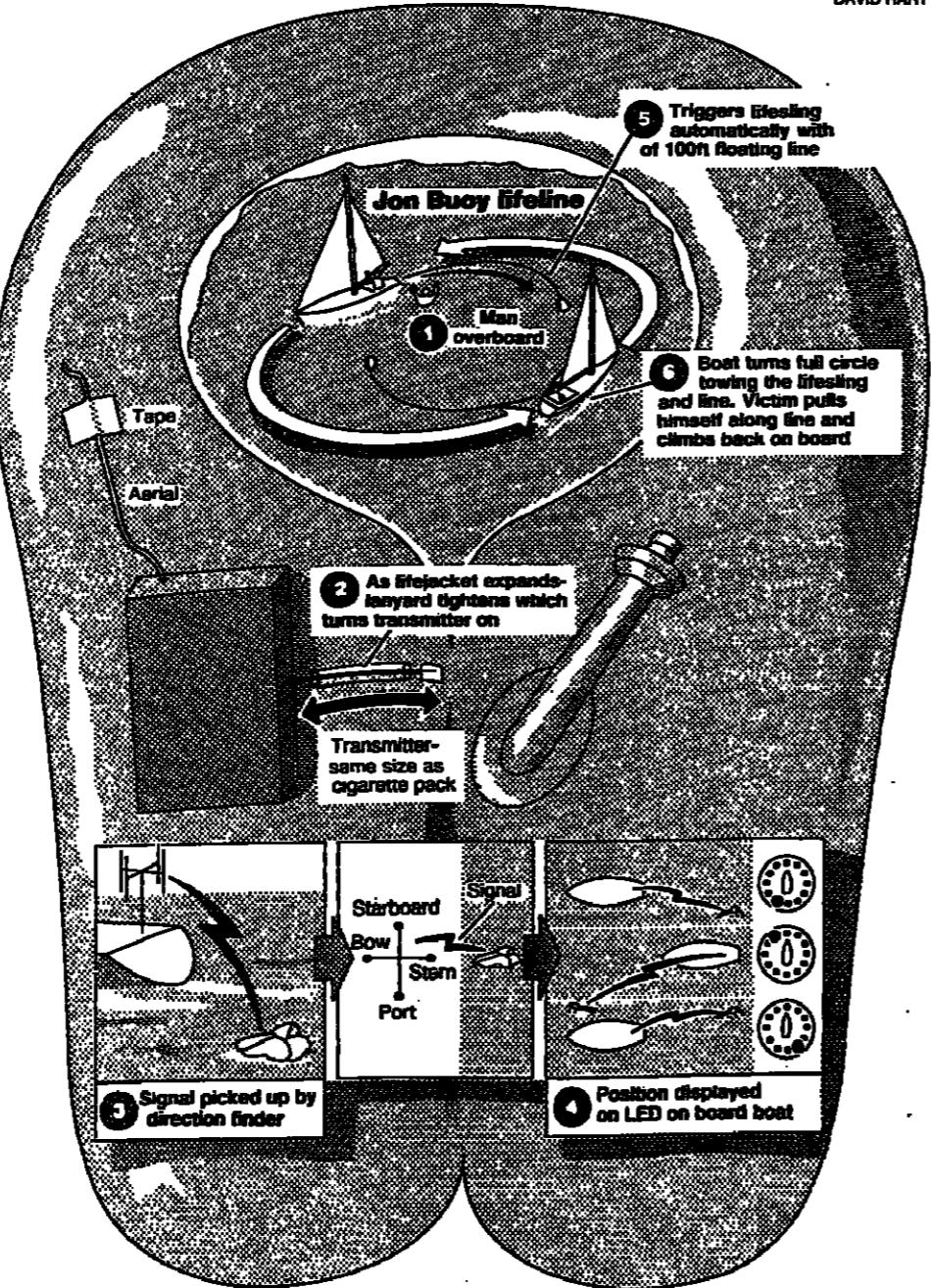
During the recent Whitbread Round the World race there were six man-overboard cases during the southern ocean stages alone. It was the struggles those crews had, first in locating, and then in recovering their crewmates that has led to the development of a new generation of safety equipment.

Before the race, concern among skippers about the effectiveness of location and survival equipment led *The Times* to instigate tests that showed up such horrifying inadequacies that the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) was prompted to work with the newspaper to bring together international experts to perfect systems suitable for racers and cruisers.

Financed by Whitbread, BOC, British Steel and Rothmans, the group, which includes former round-the-world yachtsmen Chay Blyth and Robin Knox-Johnston, and Dr Richard Allen, the military scientist based at Farnborough, Hampshire, who has done much to improve the location and recovery of downed airmen, worked to develop safety products.

For the Whitbread crews, location was the biggest headache during a man-overboard emergency. By the time they can turn their yachts around, the victim has dropped out of sight in the ocean swells. However, a month before the start, Dr Allen and his team had developed a prototype homing system that was later fitted to eight of the Whitbread yachts and saved two lives during the event.

Their ideas were so successful that it has prompted the EEC to set new regulations to encourage manufacturers to develop miniaturised versions for general use. The equipment includes a direction-finding VHF receiver and



aerial fitted to the yachts and personal VHF beacons, or emergency position indicating repeating beacons (EPIRBs), carried by crew, which transmit on the 121.5MHz emergency frequency. No larger than a cigarette packet, these new beacons are small enough to be worn on a lifejacket and will go off automatically when it inflates. The signal is picked up by an Adcock antenna mounted either at the masthead or on the stern of the yacht. The angle is shown in relation to the yacht's heading on a LED display. The helmsman just has to turn the yacht until the heading and light match and follow that bearing back to the victim.



Automatic distress beacon: to be worn by all on board

## Protecting the family sailors

**H**aving perfected a location system for fully crewed yachts, *The Times*/RORC committee turned its attention to the problems faced by solo sailors and the family man with an inexperienced crew. What was needed was a system to stop the yacht and drop a line for the victim to pull himself back on board.

Dr Allen and his team had been impressed during early trials by the electronic trigger produced by Transqua Technology, in Cornwall, by which a small water-activated transmitter worn by the crew launches a Jon-Buoy life-raft within seconds of them falling overboard. What if this could be harnessed through an onboard interface to automatically launch a buoyant life-sling and line, and call on the autopilot to perform circles around the victim?

The trials carried out on a Sigma 33 yacht in force 4-5 conditions proved highly successful. With Coastguard officers acting as victims, the life-sling and line, and which will provide a hand-held clam cleat attached to the line to help the victims pull themselves back on board.

This prototype equipment costs more than £3,000, but Locat Developments of Hull, a maker of EPIRBs, will launch a simpler version to meet new EEC safety regulations for about £600.

● Locat Developments, United Hull University Science Park, Ingleside Lane, Hull HU6 7TQ. (0482 894530).

## Queen Mum to review the fleet

● The Queen Mother requests the pleasure of all yachtsmen and women to celebrate her ninetieth birthday with a review of the fleet in the Solent on Monday, July 30.

The Solent Cruising and Racing Association, expect more than 2,000 yachts from 50 clubs to take part in the salute to Her Majesty aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia.

"This is going to be the most dramatic yachting event in living memory," organiser Kikki Hamilton-Parks says.

Escorted by HMS Broadsway, Britannia will sail from Portsmouth at 5pm on July 30 and pass by the yachts which will be anchored from Spithead to Ryde. Those wishing to take part should apply to the Solent Cruising and Racing Association at The Quay, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.

● Peace in Europe will mean more intense battles at sea. The "warships" will be high-tech sailing boats battling for the America's Cup. Or so is the theory of Warwick Collins, writer and yacht designer.

Mr Collins' novel, *Challenge* (Pan £12.95), is set ten years from now. The US and USSR are at peace but fierce rivalry still exists between them. Via a unilateral challenge for the America's Cup — à la Michael Fay — the Soviets seek a public coup.

Yachts and the sailors who race them, become the symbols of superpower competition. It puts enormous pressures, not all of them entirely understood, on the key sportsmen.

Anyone who doubts the truth of this prediction should simply look back to the Whitbread Race last October.

Fasizi, the Soviet entry, arrived in Punta del Este in sixth place. It was creditable for a new boat but skipper Alexei Gryschenko walked into a quiet Uruguayan wood and hanged himself.

On one level the book is an enjoyable adventure story, the racing passages are gripping and most of the characters credible enough. However, its implicit and convincing assumptions about how the sport will develop at the highest international level are its major claim for attention.

## Plastic bags stop foul play

A COWES-BASED company has come up with what customers claim to be the ultimate solution to the problem of fouling. The idea is simple — keep your boat in an enclosed PVC bag and feed the water with a sterilising agent — but it has taken the banning of powerful anti-fouling paints and the spiralling costs of repainting to make it viable.

"It's brilliant," says Ian de Vingne, owner of a 22ft Seafine power-cruiser. "I has kept my boat clean for a year."

An electronic sensor measures the water purity in the PVC bag and operates a pump to inject minute quantities of a chlorine-based chemical that degrades to salt once its job is done.

"We went over to Cherbourg and got weathered in for four weeks," says Mr de Vingne. "When I went back for the boat she was covered in weed, but after a long weekend in the bag it all fell off and the speed increased by five knots."

In another long-term test, an unpainted Fairline 36 powerboat was left untouched

Someone let the cat out of the bag



from September to April in an Aqua-Tech dock at a muddy marina berth on the Hamble. When the stern section of the dock was lowered and the boat floated away, the water in the bag remained clean apart from a deposit of mud. More importantly, the bottom of the boat was just as clean with the exception of a tide mark around the waterline and a few patches of dead weed and mud, which were easily wiped away.

The price of an Aqua-Tech dock for a 22ft yacht is £910, or £1,300 for a 30ft vessel, and the cost of chemicals is about £4 a month. The equipment carries a five-year guarantee and, according to the manufacturers, has a life expectancy of more than 15 years.

● For more information, contact Marine Medina Court, Arctic Road, Cowes PO3 7AD. (0983 297550).

Executive Editor David Brewerton

## BUSINESS

## Warning as BICC purchase is cleared

CLEARANCE of BICC's acquisition of Sterling Greengate, a rival cable maker, has been linked to a warning about any further mergers in the cables industry (Derek Harris writes).

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission said that any further reduction of competition might give rise to concern.

The clearance brought an announcement from BICC that the phased closure of an Aldermaston, Berkshire, factory of Sterling Greengate would mean 380 job losses. Production will be switched to other BICC factories in the Northwest and Wrexham, involving 100 new jobs. Sterling's Warrington, Cheshire, factory will continue the manufacture of power cables.

In the BICC enquiry three cables sectors were under scrutiny. These were mains cables, rubber-sheathed highly flexible elastomeric wiring cables and PVC armoured wiring cables. The MMC found that the merger resulted in combined market shares of 35 per cent for mains, 37 per cent for elastomeric and 23 per cent for PVC armoured cables.

At the same time there would still be at least three main British competitors in each of these markets.

**THE POUND**  
US dollar 1.8087 (+0.0172)  
W German mark 2.9696 (-0.0035)  
Exchange index 93.5 (+0.2)

**STOCK MARKETS**  
FT 30 Share 1880.1 (+10.0)  
FT-SE 100 2382.2 (+11.7)  
New York Dow Jones 294.55 (+24.75)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 32644.37 (+69.05)  
Closing Prices ... Page 45

**CENTRAL BANKERS**

London: Bank Base: 15%  
3-month Interbank 14.93%  
3-month eligible bills 14.9%  
US: Fed Funds 10.5%  
Federal Funds 8.1%  
3-month Treasury Bills 7.92% 6.0%  
30-year bonds 10.22% 10.21%  
ECU 10.855943 SDR £0.749344  
ECU 40.869500 ECU 1.345000

**CURRENCIES**

London: New York:  
E: \$1.8087 E: \$1.8050  
DM: 2.9696 S: DM 1.6300  
SwF: 2.5129 S: SwF 1.3920  
FF: 9.9747 S: FF 5.1357  
Yen: 266.72 S: Yen 147.55  
E: Index: 93.5 E: Index: 65.5  
ECU: 10.855943 SDR: £0.749344  
ECU: 40.869500 ECU: 1.345000

**gold**

London Fixing:  
AM 3369 10 pm \$363.60  
close \$364.25-364.75 (201.75-  
202.25)  
New York:  
Comex \$366.10-366.60

**INTEREST RATES**

Brent (Aug) ..... \$17.40 bbl (\$17.50)  
Denotes latest trading price

**FOREIGN EXCHANGES**

Bank Buys Bank Sales  
Australia \$ 240 224  
Australia Sch 2170 2040  
Belgium F 10 10  
Canada \$ 2172 2052  
Denmark Kr 11.81 11.11  
Finland Mark 127 6.87  
France F 1027 1027  
Germany Dm 309 291  
Greece Dr 286.50 280.50  
Hong Kong \$ 14.60 13.70  
India Rupee 155 150  
Italy Lira 2265 2135  
Japan Yen 281.75 265.75  
Netherlands Gld 3.75 3.75  
Norway Kr 11.90 11.78  
Portugal Esc 270.25 255.25  
South Africa Rand 5.80 5.20  
Spain Peseta 1059 1059  
Sweden Kr 11.19 10.59  
Switzerland Fr 2.62 2.46  
Turkey Lira 5000 4800  
USA \$ 1.8087 1.8050  
Yugoslavia Dinar 25.00 19.00  
Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques  
Retail Price Index: 126.7 (June)

## Regulators may act to recover £1.7m from DPR

By NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CITY regulators may start court action to recover £1.7 million of investors' money from DPR Futures despite its three directors and an employee being cleared of dishonest trading on Thursday.

The Securities and Investments Board was granted leave by the High Court in November 1988 to seek restitution from DPR under the terms of the Financial Services Act. DPR is in liquidation and said to have cash of more than £1 million.

The money was invested by DPR's clients between April and July 1988, when the firm was regulated under the FSA, until

it was closed down by the SIB. An SIB spokesman said the board is reviewing its position in the light of the four acquittals.

DPR's former directors, Marcus Deller, Andrew Pather and David Ryicot, have said they will try to recover the money from the firm, which is in the hands of its liquidators. They have also threatened to sue the SIB over the firm's closure, even though the law gives the SIB almost complete exemption from liability for damages. DPR's former investors can also take action against the firm to recover damages, and may recover more than the

trading, says it still has "serious reservations" about firms like DPR, whose three former directors were cleared at the Old Bailey of dishonest trading.

Philip Thorpe, the association's chief executive, said the body "would have serious doubts about the men's ability to continue a similar type of business".

He said any new application for a trading licence would be treated on its merits, with regard to the applicant's previous conduct.

"If someone shows they have learned by their mistakes, that is a different matter."

DPR was the first futures trader to be refused authorisation by the association when the FSA came into force two years ago. "We were appalled by them. We had a

mailbag full of complaints," said Christopher Sharples, the association's chairman.

The association took the extreme step of alerting the SIB to DPR. On July 11 1988, the SIB froze the firm, declaring it "was not fit to carry on the business of broking in futures and options". It said "Investors have been, and continue to be, at serious financial risk." Five days later, DPR was wound up in the High Court.

During the four-month trial, the four men insisted they had warned customers of the risks involved in futures trading. The three founders set up DPR in 1986, with £10,000 each. They had previously worked for LHW, another futures firm which was closed last year after being refused authorisation by the AFBD.

house, and a busy dealing room. Customers were telephoned frequently by DPR's salesmen, who offered to invest large sums in commodity futures to make fast profits. Clients complained of the high commission rates the firm charged. DPR justified these as paying for its stop-loss facility, guaranteeing investors would not lose more than their original investment.

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## Inflation highest since 1982

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ANNUAL inflation last month rose to 9.8 per cent, its highest since March 1982, and appeared to be on course for a double-digit peak this summer.

The figures from the Central Statistical Office were in line with expectations. They come a week after a statement by John Major, the chancellor, that it was taking longer than expected to bring inflation down. But yesterday's retail price index for June provided an encouraging underlying picture, showing inflation flattening out.

Despite the June rise, most City forecasters still expect headline inflation to peak slightly above 10 per cent next month. The subsequent fall is, however, expected to be slower than previously predicted, leaving inflation at about 9 per cent in December.

This makes the 7.25 per cent final year forecast made by Mr Major in the Budget look over-optimistic.

However, the underlying rate preferred by the government, which excludes mortgage and poll tax payments, fell to 6.9 per cent from 7 per cent in May. But there are indications that the rate may rise next month after June price increases of up to 6.9 per cent.

The government uses this underlying measure to compare Britain's performance with that of European countries. At 6.9 per cent, the rate is still about 2 per cent above Britain's European Community partners. In West Germany, it was 2.3 per cent. A British inflation rate "proximate" to the EC average is one of the conditions the government has set for taking sterling into the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System. And expectations of early ERM entry have been fuelling the pound for the past two months.

Mr Major, speaking on BBC Radio 4, said the June inflation

figure was a "good deal higher" than he would want to see it, and that he would be content when it started to come down. He challenged the view that policy was off course, saying that it was just taking a "little longer" than the government had imagined to bring inflation down.

The American labour department said the producer price index, which measures inflation at the wholesale level, rose 0.2 per cent in June against 0.3 per cent in May. But the core rate of wholesale inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, showed a 0.6 per cent increase. This could cause concern at the Fed.

In New York, the dollar opened lower, but share prices rallied in response to Mr Greenspan's testimony before the Senate banking committee.

His comments were the first public acknowledgement by the Fed that a squeeze on bank lending may be hampering American economic performance and that the Fed might be willing to shift from a policy aimed at fighting inflation. He said, however, that any action by the central bank would be "modest" because he did not see any single weakness in the economy that would justify an easing of interest rates.

One survey of retail sales, released this week by Merrill Lynch, found that warm weather last month across most of America boosted sales of clothing and other seasonal-related goods.

The gain in the core inflation rate at the wholesale level last month was the largest since a 0.7 per cent gain in June last year. Wall Street analysts were expecting the index, which provides the first indication of the likely overall inflation rate for June by measuring the cost of goods at all stages of production, to be between 0.2 per cent and 0.3 per cent.

One survey of retail sales, released this week by Merrill Lynch, found that warm weather last month across most of America boosted sales of clothing and other seasonal-related goods.

The broker is not, however, alone in having been a seller of Hawker shares. City forecasts of likely 1990 and 1991 profits had been heavily scaled down.

Hawker Siddeley had seen several analysts after announcing 1989 results on March 28, showing pre-tax profits of £202.1 million.

The annual meeting was held on May 11, and several brokers have downgraded their 1990 forecasts. Profit estimates were cut further yesterday.

Hawker Siddeley executives were repairing fences with City analysts, many of whom had let down by Thursday's warning and the day's events.

In April, the divisional manager of Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering resigned and the group has been beset by speculation about problem areas ever since. Cazenove

had been buying ride-on lawnmowers

for the past two weeks, and in particular reference to the firm's role on Thursday morning.

"We are not market-makers. We act as agents in the normal course of business on behalf of clients."

At 2pm on Thursday, Hawker made an announcement to the International Stock Exchange that because of contract losses it had just identified, 1990 profits were

likely to be dented by between £25 million and £30 million.

Hawker shares fell immediately and at their worst were 79p down on the pre-announcement level of 610p.

Before the announcement, Cazenove had effected a share transaction between a matched buyer and seller involving a parcel of shares at a 16p discount to the then ruling market price.

The shares eased a further 2p to 546p yesterday as investors continued to tick their wounds after the warning.

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In April, the divisional manager of Hawker Sidde



## STOCK MARKET

## Two brokers cut Sears forecasts

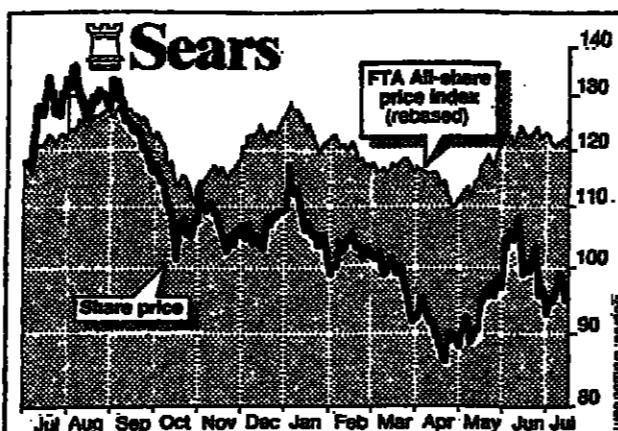
By MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

**SEARS**, the retailing group which includes Selfridges, Freemans mail order and British Shoe, has become the latest target for analysts red pens after a downgrading of profit forecasts by at least two leading securities houses. The shares ended 3p cheaper at 95p.

Cazenove, the broker, is believed to have lopped £25 million from its original profit forecast of £195 million. The company's own broker, Warburg Securities, has also cut its estimate for the current year from £180 million to about £160 million. Last year, Sears saw its profits fall from £247 million to £169.2 million.

The downgradings by Cazenove and Warburg comes just 24 hours after Sears announced a shake-up at its British Shoe subsidiary and the resignation of Chris Marsland as the managing director. Brokers say that the two matters are unrelated but their timing is bound to raise a few eyebrows in the City.

Shareholders were warned at the recent annual meeting that trading was flat in both



downgrading on Thursday, rallied after an early fall to finish unchanged at 548p. The rest of the equity

Marks and Spencer rose 54p to 240p. Morgan Stanley, the American securities house, has upgraded its recommendation to a buy. Morgan expects M&S's epos system to benefit the food side and has increased its pre-tax profit forecast for this year by £15 million to £265 million. It has also raised its forecast for 1991-92 from £745 million to £780 million.

market opened on a firm note, drawing strength from another record-breaking performance on Wall Street. But there was little follow-through and so prices drifted off. The latest inflation statistics fell short of

enabled prices to close near their best levels. The FTSE 100 index finished 11.7 higher at 2,382. The FT index of 30 shares rose 10.0 to 1,880.1 on a turnover of 399 million shares.

● **Hong Kong** — The Hang Seng index closed 38.57 higher at 3,507.16 and the broader-based Hong Kong index surged 27.42 to 2,306.51.

Prices ended sharply higher on buying after the Hang Seng breached 3,500 at midday.

● **Singapore** — Sharp gains in index-component shares pushed up the *Straits Times* industrial index by 31.47 to 1,564.40. Prices closed at the day's highs, rising sharply across the board on heavy demand by institutions and individuals. (Reuters)

## WALL STREET

## Strong bonds help Dow to make early advance

**New York**  
AN OPENING blue-chip rally lost some of its momentum, but share prices generally remained firm in morning trading. The Dow Jones industrial average was up by 5.94 to 2,975.74. Shares were supported by a strong bond market and a steady dollar.

Some profit-taking after Thursday's rally tempered the rise. Jeff Kaminsky, the director of institutional sales at Mabon Nugent and Co, said: "The market is just taking a rest." Share prices advanced sharply on Thursday on hopes that interest rates will ease.

● **Tokyo** — The Nikkei index was up 69.05 points, or 0.21 per cent, to 32,644.37. Shares closed firmer on subdued optimism about a stronger yen

and the possibility that American credit is about to ease.

Though the gains were modest, the Nikkei closed higher for the third consecutive day and advanced by nearly 200 points for the week.

● **Hong Kong** — The Hang Seng index closed 38.57 higher at 3,507.16 and the broader-based Hong Kong index surged 27.42 to 2,306.51.

Prices ended sharply higher on buying after the Hang Seng breached 3,500 at midday.

● **Singapore** — Sharp gains in index-component shares pushed up the *Straits Times* industrial index by 31.47 to 1,564.40. Prices closed at the day's highs, rising sharply across the board on heavy demand by institutions and individuals.

● **London** — The FTSE 100 index closed 33.71 higher at 3,507.16 and the FTSE 100 index of 30 shares rose 10.0 to 1,880.1.

● **Paris** — The CAC 40 index closed 1.25 higher at 3,265.25.

● **Berlin** — The Dax index closed 1.25 higher at 1,020.25.

● **Frankfurt** — The Dax index closed 1.25 higher at 1,020.25.

● **Stockholm** — The Stockholm index closed 1.25 higher at 1,020.25.

● **Paris** — The CAC 40 index closed 1.25 higher at 3,265.25.

● **London** — The FTSE 100 index closed 33.71 higher at 3,507.16.

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## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won a right or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gross	Yield	P/E
1	Mercantile	Industries L-R	17	2	103
2	Hanson (aa)	Industries E-K	17	2	103
3	Hogg Robinson Plc	Drapery/Stores	17	2	103
4	Arco Energy	Oil/Gas	17	2	103
5	Alexion	Transport	17	2	103
6	Pearson (aa)	Newspaper/Pub	17	2	103
7	Davies & Newman	Transport	17	2	103
8	Concorde	Industries A-D	17	2	103
9	AA Inv.	Industries A-D	17	2	103
10	MBS	Electricals	17	2	103
11	Ladbrokes (aa)	Hotels/Caterers	17	2	103
12	Central TV	Leisure	17	2	103
13	BAT (aa)	Tobaccos	17	2	103
14	Ocean Group	Transport	17	2	103
15	Premier	Oil/Gas	17	2	103
16	Porter Chadburn	Industries L-R	17	2	103
17	Mercuria	Industries L-R	17	2	103
18	Trinity Int'l	Newspaper/Pub	17	2	103
19	Barbour Index	Newspaper/Pub	17	2	103
20	Holksby Gp	Electricals	17	2	103
21	Campari	Leisure	17	2	103
22	Culvers	Foods	17	2	103
23	Harland Simon	Electricals	17	2	103
24	GEC (aa)	Electricals	17	2	103
25	BICC (aa)	Electricals	17	2	103
26	Lawes	Industries I-R	17	2	103
27	Cook (Wm)	Industries A-D	17	2	103
28	Ames	Building/Roads	17	2	103
29	Floors	Industries E-K	17	2	103
30	BET Ord (aa)	Industries A-D	17	2	103
31	Diploma	Industries A-D	17	2	103
32	Tottenham Hotspur	Leisure	17	2	103
33	Massfield	Breweries	17	2	103
34	Brusnac	Print/Print/Adv	17	2	103
35	CRT Gp	Textiles	17	2	103
36	Revers Group	Drapery/Stores	17	2	103
37	Saks	Hotels/Caterers	17	2	103
38	Aldi-Lyons (aa)	Breweries	17	2	103
39	Br Polythene	Industries A-D	17	2	103
40	Guinness (aa)	Breweries	17	2	103
41	Sainsbury J (aa)	Foods	17	2	103
42	Br Borneo	Oil/Gas	17	2	103
43	Granada (aa)	Industries E-K	17	2	103
44	Syco	Shoes/Leather	17	2	103

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	Weekly Total
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won by Joseph Gordon, of Brighton, East Sussex.

### BRITISH FUNDS

1st Gross

only Red

1990 High Low Stock Price Chgs per cent

**SHORTS (Under Five Years)**

82	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
83	73	73	73	73	73	73	73
84	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
85	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
86	76	76	76	76	76	76	76
87	77	77	77	77	77	77	77
88	78	78	78	78	78	78	78
89	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
90	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
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92	82	82	82	82	82	82	82
93	83	83	83	83	83	83	83
94	84	84	84	84	84	84	84
95	85	85	85	85	85	85	85
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98	88	88	88	88	88	88	88
99	89	89	89	89	89	89	89
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30	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
31	121	121	121	121	121	121	121
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36	126	126	126	126	126	126	126
37	127	127	127	127	127	127	127
38	128	128	128	128	128	128	128
39	129	129	129	129	129	129	129
40	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
41	131	131	131	131	131	131	131
42	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
43	133	133	133	133	133	133	133
44	134	134	134	134	134	134	134
45	13						

# The saletime ploys that stores use to seduce the shopper

TWICE a year the British public part with millions of pounds in one of the cleverest and most successful marketing ploys ever invented, the end of season sales.

Retailers, keeping one step ahead of their sophisticated customers, dream up ever more imaginative schemes to encourage the public to spend. Special offers and apparent bargains entice consumers into shops plastered with red stickers.

The amount spent during the summer sales is almost impossible to assess, especially as sales are now starting earlier and going on for longer. But for most stores sale time is the busiest period of the year.

Harrods sells twice as much each day during the summer sale as it does on a normal day's trading. In three weeks during its January sale in 1986 it took £38.6 million, a record taken during a sale, and in one day in 1987 it took £7 million. The store adds about two thousand extra staff at sale time, doubling the norm.

With times becoming tougher from higher interest rates, sales are lasting longer, starting earlier and retailers are becoming more desperate to entice shoppers in. Sales are designed to encourage shoppers to make impulse buys. Signs warning that the sale is about to end or suggesting that bargains are to be had for a limited time only encourage customers to buy on the spot.

But one's rights as a consumer do not diminish during sale periods and shop owners have the same responsibilities during sales as at any other time. Signs advising customers there is no refund on sale goods are misleading.

The Consumer Protection Act 1987 makes it a criminal offence to give consumers a misleading price indication about goods, services, accommodation or facilities. Retailers should state the normal price for the goods as well as the reduced price during a

sale. For example the ticket on a dress should say "Sale price £29.99. Our normal price £39.99", rather than simply "reduced to £29.99".

The previous price should be the last price at which the product was available to consumers in the last six months and the product should have been available to consumers at that price for at least 28 consecutive days in the previous six months in the same shop where the reduced price is on offer.

If the previous price in a comparison does not conform to the timescale there should be a clear explanation why and of the circumstances in which the higher price applied.

It is up to local authority trading standards departments to ensure that retailers comply with the legislation. They follow up complaints from consumers and enforce the Consumer Protection Act. John Corfield, chairman of the Institute of Trading Standards' Administration's fair trading committee, says the most common complaints his committee deals with are about pricing.

A recent case successfully brought against Harveys Furnishing Group by the London Borough of Enfield is believed to be the first legal test of what

constitutes misleading price indication.

Harvey's practice was to compare its sale prices with higher prices described as recommended retail price. The court found that the consumer would be misled into thinking that the goods were normally offered by Harvey's at or near the recommended retail prices when in fact this was not the case. Harvey's was convicted on five counts and ordered to pay £4,662 in fines and costs.

The judge advised retailers to include the previous selling price when advertising sale bargains.

Genuine sales mean reduced profit margins for retailers. If a retailer normally sells an item, such as a watch, on a 60 per cent margin but in the sale reduces it to 30 per cent margin then he has to sell twice as many watches to make the same amount of profit. One way retailers pad out their sales without cutting their margins is to buy in special cheap lines for the sale.

Marks and Spencer says its biannual sale does not include bought-in lines. It is simply a way of clearing out old stock to make way for the new seasons goods. But Harrods will buy in lines from suppliers with whom it deals regularly. For example, if a cos-

ume line successfully brought against Harveys Furnishing Group by the London Borough of Enfield is believed to be the first legal test of what

## Rights and wrongs about returning goods

THE Office of Fair Trading and the Consumers Association advise consumers to follow certain guidelines if they have a complaint about goods.

Items should be examined as soon as possible after purchase. Once they have been legally "accepted" the right to refuse goods that are faulty is lost. This means the customer cannot claim a refund but only damages, normally the difference between purchase price and the value of the goods in their faulty condition.

Goods are deemed to have been "accepted" when kept beyond a reasonable time. There is no fixed period, it depends on the goods and the circumstances. The Consumers Association advises people to take things back within two weeks of purchase. If a fault is spotted straight away the goods may be rejected and the purchase price returned. The offer of repairs or a credit note need not be accepted.

A credit note permits the purchase of goods to the same value from the same shop. If accepted, customers will not normally be able to exchange it for cash later on. And they are sometimes valid for only a limited period of time.

If entitlement to a refund of the full

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A credit note permits the purchase of goods to the same value from the same shop. If accepted, customers will not normally be able to exchange it for cash later on. And they are sometimes valid for only a limited period of time.

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# Yes, we will take your money – but at a price

By BARBARA ELLIS

AS THE Arthur Scargill enquiry has demonstrated, opening a foreign bank account has never been easier, with Britain's tax and banking authorities having total disinterest in the international homes citizens choose for their cash.

But certain types of secret surveillance are being stepped up and mere suspicion can lead to investigations involving the police and possibly the freezing of an account.

At the Bank of England, a spokesman said a Briton opening an account with a foreign bank would fall outside its reporting system.

But all European banks are now under a similar obligation to British and American banks to report any "suspicious" transaction to the police, in case it relates to drug money.

In Britain, a working party consisting of banks and building societies is trying to establish guidelines on what constitutes a suspicious transaction. It is unwilling to copy the American practice of requiring automatic reports on every transaction over \$10,000, fearing that smaller transfers could be just as illicit.

Banks in Britain are legally obliged to report payments of interest of £500 and above to the Inland Revenue, but banks abroad are not.

However, a spokesman pointed out that if the Inland Revenue suspected anyone of receiving income from abroad without declaring it, there were routes it could use to obtain information.

The European Mutual Assistance Directive made it possible for the Revenue to call on foreign authorities for help, he explained.

Despite the hidden perils, there is a steady stream of British applicants for foreign accounts, particularly via the London offices of European banks. Many now keep a stack of application forms handy and are well rehearsed on the different conditions that apply in their own countries.

Société Générale currently receives about 50 calls a week from people wanting to open accounts in France, and asks all applicants to supply a signature verified by their own bank along with a bank letter of reference. No interest is paid on current accounts in France and cheque guarantee cards are not issued: shopkeepers often ask to see identification cards or passports instead.



Chequebooks available – with a DM4,000 deposit: Deutsche Bank in Bishopsgate

A Société Générale spokesman said that the bank did not make any charge for ordinary transactions such as cheques or withdrawals, but that each branch manager has discretion to require a minimum deposit ranging from £100 to £1,000. However, she said it was very rare for a manager to ask for £1,000.

A danger peculiar to France is that non-residents may find their accounts closed if they are left inactive for a long time, even with positive balances of £200: "They can get the money back, but if you have an account in France it is best to keep using it," the spokeswoman said.

Another French hazard is that unauthorized overdrafts are illegal and could land unsuspecting Britons on a Banque de France blacklist that would bar them from holding an account in France.

For accounts in Spain, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya asks applicants for a photocopy of their passport with a signature authentication by a British bank, but does not need a letter of reference.

Because of Spanish exchange control regulations, the bank offers non-residents accounts in either convertible

pesetas or ordinary pesetas. Convertible pesetas can only be created from funds transferred from outside Spain and can be sent abroad, but ordinary pesetas must stay within the country.

Banco Bilbao Vizcaya does not require a minimum deposit for current accounts, it charges a maintenance commission, at each branch manager's discretion.

Barclays has 210 branches in Spain and its British branches will help open accounts there though they do not routinely keep application forms available. For a current account Barclays in Spain would look for a balance of £1,700. Below that, it would charge £12 every six months plus 60p per transaction.

At Monte dei Paschi di Siena, a bank with 550 branches around Italy, a spokesman said that a passport would be considered sufficient documentation for someone wanting to open an account.

He added that no minimum deposit is needed for a current account, and that interest would be paid, depending on the market. Fees would be charged for each transaction, but these would depend on the

branch. Deutsche Bank also asks only for a valid passport from applicants for accounts in Germany. But obtaining a cheque book will be initially costly for a non-resident.

Because most German banks now issue Eurocheques rather than individual bank cheques, they will insist that new account-holders deposit DM4,000 in a blocked savings account, paying interest at a rate of about 3½ per cent, since this is the amount the bank will be guaranteeing by handing out a Eurocheque book.

Interest of about 0.5 per cent is paid on current accounts and charges vary from bank to bank. Deutsche Bank has just introduced two different scales of maintenance fee, one with a set charge of DM7.50 per quarter and another charging for every transaction.

People who do not feel like tying up over £1,000 simply to get Eurocheques could open an account accessed by Deutsche Bank's own ATM card, but usable only within Germany. This would enable them to make payments by transfer orders, which are much more commonly used than cheques in Germany.

# Premiums rise as tax slices into insurance profits cake

By PAUL NUKI

INSURANCE policyholders are facing the prospect of higher premiums because insurance companies are not doing enough business to cover their costs.

City analysts are predicting that the life insurance industry's running costs may rise even higher because of a slump in new business. If correct, policyholders will have no option but to pick up the bill.

New business figures for the first quarter of 1990 were described by the Association of British Insurers as "satisfactory". But according to a report from Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the life industry's new business prospects for the 1990's are "far from encouraging".

The introduction of mortgage tax relief at source (Miras) and personal pensions during the 1980's created a boom for insurers, but the 1990's will be marred by lower business levels and a period of consolidation, it says.

Although Mr Curtis points out that it would take about two to three years for the impact of these changes to filter down to policyholders, and that they would not affect all companies, there are a series of inflationary pressures working their way through the system.

The BZW reports say: "During the recent new business bonanza, policyholders have scrambled to pay up to 50 per cent more in initial expenses to buy a life or pensions policy."

This is mainly because

Nobody's buying  
We'll have to up  
the price.



chief actuary, who recently stepped down as chairman of the ABI's life insurance council.

He said: "The effect of expenses on policy returns pales into insignificance compared with the investment return you can give. If you can get just a half per cent more out of your investment managers, it out-weights any increase in costs for most companies."

But Mr Curtis argues that with-profits offices are already under pressure to cut bonuses. "The position, I think, is going to get worse. We would need a pretty strong bull market just to keep revisionary bonuses at current levels," he said.

Mr Dias said investors should even consider taking out policies with smaller companies which might not survive a slump in new business. "Where offices have closed life funds in the past, the remaining policyholders have had a bonanza," he said.

But for the more cautious investor who cannot afford to gamble, the City scribblers are still recommending the big names.

One analyst said: "You must be looking at reasonably sized companies which are well run and have reserves enough to find and fund new business. Then, investment performance is most important."

## River flows towards small firms

By JON ASHWORTH

RIVER & MERCANTILE today launches an investment trust to focus on smaller companies in Britain and abroad. The trust is tailored towards capital growth, but investors can anticipate an initial gross dividend yield of 5 per cent and a growing level of income.

The portfolio will initially include at least 100 British and 20 foreign smaller companies. For every five ordinary shares, subscribed shareholders will receive one warrant, giving the right to subscribe for an additional share at 100p in each year up to, and including, 1996. The shares and warrants may be included in personal equity plans.

The LAS Group has unveiled a unit trust which aims to provide investors with high income and high security. The fund will invest in higher-yielding blue-chip shares and the group is predicting an annualised gross yield at launch of 14.8 per cent, with net income reinvested. This would equate to 11.1 per cent net of basic rate tax. The minimum investment is £2,500, and there is a 2.01 per cent bid offer spread.

Yorkshire building society has raised the rate of interest for larger investments in Offshore Key, its offshore account. A

rate of 15.8 per cent is offered on amounts between £50,000 and £1 million, while 15.5 per cent is paid on amounts between £25,000 and £49,999. Rates of interest on smaller amounts are: 14.5 per cent up to £14,999, and 15 per cent between £15,000 and £24,999. Funds may be withdrawn without penalty with 90 days notice.

Birmingham Midshires building society has added a gross interest facility to its Magnum Savings Account. The account pays interest gross on £100, and up to £500 may be withdrawn without notice. On larger amounts, seven days notice is required. The rate of interest varies from 10.67 per cent gross on £100 to 14.33 per cent on £25,000. The first interest payment is due on June 30, 1991.

Whittingdale, the City gills specialists, has launched an instant access fund which pays an initial annual income of 15.2 per cent. The City Reserve Fund, to be launched on Monday, is a money-market fund aimed at companies and private investors. There is no initial charge, but there is an annual charge of 0.5 per cent. The minimum investment is £10,000.

Exeter fund managers is relaunching the Exeter High Income unit trust on

Monday, with a 1 per cent discount for new investors. The fund was founded two years ago and has a current gross yield of 12.5 per cent.

Prolific financial management has launched an income plan called Concepts, which combines several investment options in one package. Part of the money invested is used to buy an annuity which provides investors with a guaranteed monthly income. By purchasing the annuity in the name of a non-taxpayer, income can be paid gross. The balance is invested in a choice of nine equity trusts and peps tailored for capital growth.

Many customers of Firstdirect are paying bills by telephone, ending the need to send cheques by post or pay them over the counter. The service can be set up to pay regular household bills and is more flexible than standing orders or direct debits. Credit card bills can be settled with a phone call each month.

The Household Mortgage Corporation has launched a new valuation service to improve and simplify valuations for customers, introducers and lenders. The service should be able to provide valuations in as little as two days and should ensure accurate appraisals.

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Building Society Ordinary Account Interest/income withdrawn	£286	£1000	£756

Results of £1000 invested. \*Income rate, offer to bid. Figures from 1.6.83 to 1.6.90. \*\*For deducted of basic rate. All unit trust performance and building society returns figures supplied by MERCOPAL. Inflation measured by reference to the retail price index.

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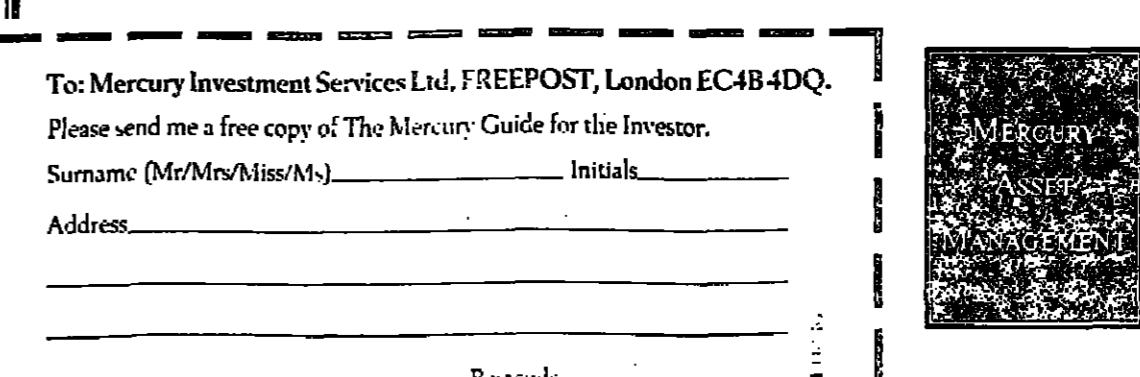
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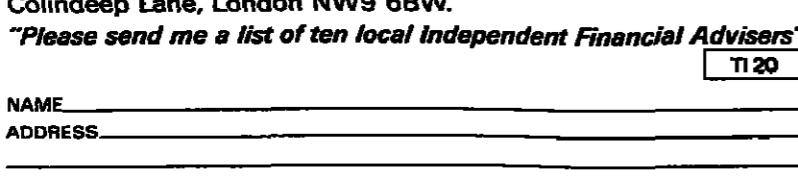
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## WEEKEND MONEY

# Pepping up personal income without tax

PAULA YOUNG

Helen Pridham on the benefits of personal equity plans, why it is difficult to compare performance, and an illustration of the pitfalls of the DIY approach to peps

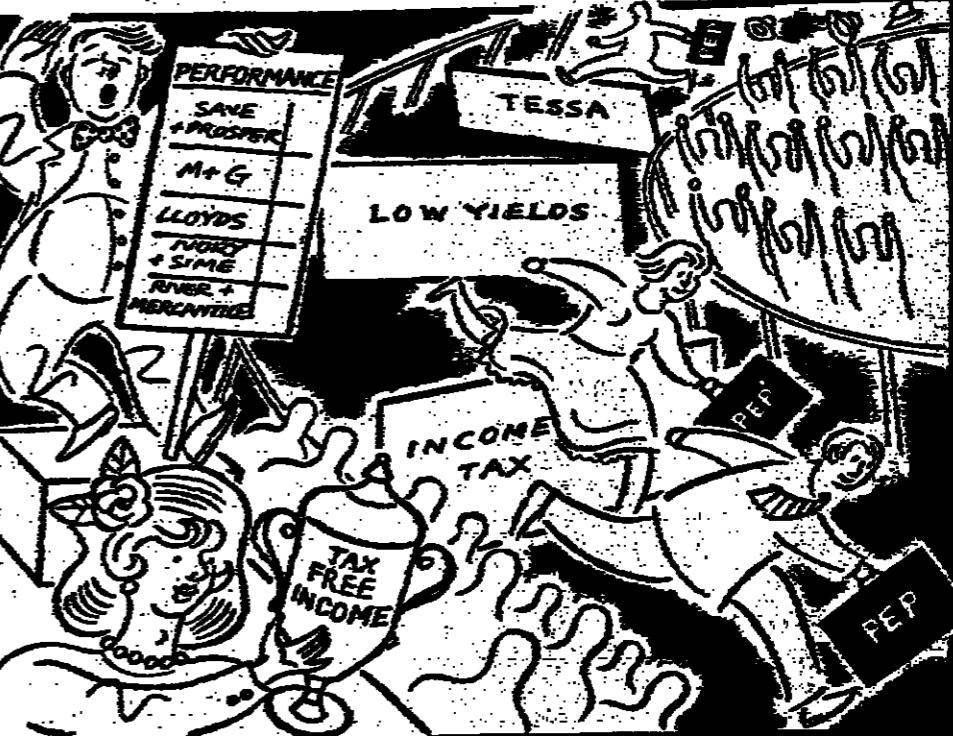
MANY people are still unaware that by investing in personal equity plans (peps) it is possible to obtain a completely tax-free income. Most investors have viewed peps as a way of building up capital, but an increasing number of pep managers are offering an income option.

The starting yield on an income unit trust after tax is likely to be about 5 per cent, or less, compared with interest rates of 11 per cent or more net offered by building societies. But by using a pep this gap can be narrowed. Gross yields of more than 8 per cent can be obtained on income unit trusts through a pep and prospects for growth are good.

Even when Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts (Tessas), the tax-free bank and building society investment schemes, are introduced, peps will be at an advantage. Although it will be possible to withdraw income from a Tessa, only the net amount will be available until the completion of the five-year plan.

Even if an immediate income is not required, an income-oriented pep can make sense. On request, the income can be reinvested until needed. Besides compounding the gross income, adding to the value of the plan, by the time the income is required the yield should have grown.

Save & Prosper estimated that if an investor could have made an annual contribution of £3,000 for five years to April 1989 to a pep linked to S&P's high return unit trust, it would have produced an income in the past 12 months equivalent to 10.2 per cent on



the amount invested. The capital invested would have grown from £15,000 to nearly £24,000 by the April. An income-type pep is a particularly good investment for those near to retirement.

If a future Labour government puts up income tax above the value of a tax-free income from a pep will be enhanced further. The Labour Party has said it will not tax away the benefits of existing plans.

Not all pep managers offer an income option. But now that no minimum investment period is stipulated with a pep and the maximum that can be invested has been increased to £6,000, of which up to £3,000 can go into investment or unit trusts, arranging an income facility has become easier.

The highest yields are available from peps investing in split-capital investment trusts. River & Mercantile offers the choice of a pep investing in the ordinary shares of River &

Mercantile Extra Income, which currently yields 9.3 per cent, or in the income shares of River & Mercantile Trust, paying 10.4 per cent. But investors need to be aware that the latter is trading at the moment at a premium that would mean a capital loss when the fund winds up in the year 2000.

At Ivory & Sime, pep investors can choose between the ordinary shares of Optimum Income, paying 9.3 per cent, or the conventional shares of Investors Capital and British Assets, which yield 6.8 per cent and 6.6 per cent respectively. Each of the trusts pays income quarterly, and there are plans to launch a monthly income pep.

Statistics produced by Ivory & Sime show that if £3,000 could have been invested in a British Assets pep at the beginning of 1980, the annual income would have grown from £203.75 to £707.15 free of tax in 1989.

Income unit trusts have long had a reputation for providing capital growth as well as income growth, though not all have managed both with equal success. Among the companies that have done well on both counts, M&G, which is in the process of introducing an income facility on its pep. This has led to three of its income unit trusts - M&G Dividend, M&G Extra Yield, and M&G Midland - all of which have increased their income faster than inflation and outperformed the FTSE All Share Index in capital growth terms over the past three years.

## Lack of performance guide hinders choice

IT IS generally agreed nowadays that for anyone who wants to put money into the stock market the first avenue should be through a personal equity plan (writes Helen Pridham).

This way all investment income and capital gains are free of tax. But the second step is not so easy. How to choose from about 400 pep managers? One criterion is charges. These can vary considerably and are therefore difficult to compare.

John Spiers of Best Investment, the investors magazine, which earlier this year produced a league table of peps with the highest expenses, now believes it is wrong to focus too much attention on this aspect.

"The difference in pep charges is actually not very great. Differences in performance are far more important and can soon outweigh any variation in charges."

If you are investing in a unit trust pep or an investment trust-only pep, comparing past performance is not difficult thanks to the abundance of statistics. Though these usually show returns after tax rather than the gross amounts from a pep, the consistency and relative abilities of different managers can be assessed.

Only £3,000 can go into a unit trust or investment trust pep. The balance of the full £6,000 non-taxable investment must go into individual shares. This route is preferable for those who like the idea of

owning specific shares rather than investing in a more anonymous pooled fund.

Although some peps allow people to select their own shares, most tend to opt for a managed plan where the choice of shares and running of the portfolio is in the hands of managers. Typically, between six and twelve shares are included in this type.

But the performance of managed peps tends to be much more difficult to compare.

**Differences in performance can soon outweigh any variation in charges'**

But these difficulties could be overcome with the co-operation of the pep managers, he said.

The only independent monitoring of performance that currently takes place is done by the WM Company on behalf of the Daily Telegraph, but just 11 companies participate out of about 400.

Geoff Bailey of Lloyds Bank, one of the largest pep providers, with about £250 million under management, admits performance tables are useful when managers are doing well but not much fun when they are at the bottom.

"Many managers must think it's not worth the risk so they do not participate," he said.

Lacking comprehensive performance figures, most financial advisers use the company's other managed funds as their main guide. Best Investment is about to publish a review of the top performing unit and investment trusts available within a pep, with information on whether the same investment manager of those funds is also running the individual share portfolio of the managed pep too.

Mr Spiers said: "I would definitely recommend investors to go for a pep that includes a managed fund with an identifiable track record. Without it, you don't know what you're getting into."

## Glamour blinds self-selectors

INVESTORS who pit their share selection skills against personal equity plan (peps) managers have achieved mixed results. Many have chosen the glamour stocks of 1987 and 1988 and have since come to grief (writes Lindsay Cook).

At Save & Prosper, the champion of the self-select pep has chosen only one share, Polly Peck, and now has a plan worth more than £40,000. He started with the maximum investment of £2,400 in 1987 and has invested the maximum allowed each year since, giving a total investment of £19,200.

At the other end of the scale is a woman who made good profits with her own portfolio when she started to select her own shares for a plan. She has invested a total of £11,561.56 in plans over the past two years which are now worth £9,030.

She says: "The income is derisory and to a considerable

extent wiped out by management charges."

Among the shares is a holding in British & Commonwealth which she expects to be a complete write-off. Tottenham Hotspur, bought when Tony Berry had a large stake, subsequently fell 15p. Lopex, bought at 248p, fell by 80p over the next 12 months. Clough Gold Mines, now Ferromet, has turned £1,083 into £187.

She also put £3,000 of her daughter's money into Saatchi & Saatchi, which then fell to £856. The only success in her plan was Polly Peck.

At Save & Prosper, Richard Mosley, sales and marketing support manager, said that most of its self-select plan holders were active investors who knew what they wanted. The company has decided to limit the choice of shares available to investors to alpha stocks.

"We found that when the whole market was open people of 1 per cent and a dealing fee of 1.5 per cent."

Personal  
out tax

## WEEKEND MONEY

## Europe is Pearl's growth oyster

PEARL Unit Trusts is launching a European fund for investors seeking steady growth in the longer term (writes Jon Ashworth).

Savers looking for a repeat of the heady gains which have been available from European funds may find themselves disappointed, but Pearl is confident that the growth rate will pick up as 1992 approaches.

Edward Heath, speaking at the fund's launch this week, said it showed that 1992 was not only approaching rapidly but also posing a major challenge to investors. The former prime minister said investment would also play a key role in the re-development of East European countries. Mr Heath said that long-term investment would be essential to the growth and well-being of these economies.

Paul Woof, the fund manager, said growth is likely to be below that of Japan but ahead of Britain and America. He said new opportunities will arise in the run-up to 1992, making this as good a time as any to invest in a European fund.



Heath: the challenge of 1992.

Not surprisingly, Germany has been singled out for its investment potential. The fund will invest up to a third of its assets in the newly-unified country.

Germany is the favoured market since its manufacturers stand to gain orders from Eastern Europe. France will ac-

count for 18 per cent. Spain, Holland and Switzerland are likely to account for 10 per cent each, and Italy and Britain 5 per cent each.

The minimum investment in the new trust is £1,000, although as an incentive to smaller investors, as little as £500 may be invested until August 3. There is an initial charge of 6 per cent and an annual management charge of 1.5 per cent.

Savers investing £50,000 or more during the launch period will pay only 4 per cent as an initial charge, and discounts of between 1.5 per cent and 0.5 per cent are offered on £2,500 or more.

Potential investors may look to the example of Save & Prosper's European Smaller Companies fund, which like the New Europe trust favours investment in Germany and France. Since its launch in January, the fund has attracted over £70 million from nearly 17,000 investors.

Later this month Scottish Mutual is launching a bond which will invest in the group's European life fund. It promises good growth with limited risks, and is open to investments of at least £2,500.

## Globe holders attract sudden host of admirers

By JON ASHWORTH

SMALL shareholders in the Globe Investment Trust have been offered a range of alternative investments by financial institutions after the successful bid by the British Coal pension funds.

Legal & General was first off the mark by offering Globe investors 205p per share, provided they invest the proceeds in L&G's Equity trust. The offer is an improvement on the market price, and is in dividend form to allow shareholders who accept to receive the 4p final dividend from Globe.

The scheme is an attractive one, but the 37,000 private shareholders should weigh up the odds carefully. The Coal funds offer three investment routes. Schroder unit trusts and Gartmore fund managers have come up with offers of their own, and more offers are likely to be made in the coming days.

Shareholders accepting the Coal fund offer will lose the right to receive the final 4p dividend. They will either be paid in cash at 205p per share, or have their holdings invested in loan notes, or reinvest in a new investment trust which will aim to match the FTA All-Share Index.

L&G says its offer is an improvement, since money will be invested at once and the higher capital gains tax base cost will appeal to investors with higher rate tax liabilities.

Shareholders who want to defer the capital gains tax liability on their Globe shares may prefer the Coal funds' investment trust.

Shareholders who can sell their shares without exceeding their £5,000 capital gains tax allowance may prefer other alternatives. The higher base cost could reduce any tax they may become liable to pay in the future.

Chris Harry, director of unit trusts at L&G, said shareholders who opt for the investment trust proposed by the Coal funds might have to wait six weeks before their money is invested.

For those who need to defer capital gains, the investment

trust was the best option. But they would be out of the market for at least six weeks and the trust would be likely to trade at a 3-5 per cent discount.

"It comes down to whether a unit trust is a sensible alternative to an investment trust," said Mr Harry. "People have got to make up their own minds on that."

It is thought that about 20,000 of the 37,000 private Globe shareholders have not used up their capital gains tax allowance.

But it may be worth waiting a few days before deciding to see the full range of offers.

Schroder unit trusts is launching a global equity fund aimed at Globe shareholders free of the usual 5 per cent initial charge.

Clive Boothman, Schroder's managing director, said: "Our normal front-end load, equivalent to a 5 per cent discount, reflects our concern for the plight of Globe shareholders and the fact that many will incur capital gains tax on their holdings. We

think Globe is a special situation in which the private shareholder should not come out the loser."

Gartmore fund managers is offering a reinvestment service to Globe shareholders linked to a choice of four unit trusts with a four per cent discount on the offer price.

The discount, Gartmore claims, is equivalent to a price of 213p per Globe share, including the 4p dividend and taking a full front end charge of 5.25 per cent.

There is a choice of the Frontier Markets trust, the Pacific Growth trust, the British Growth trust and the Practical Investment fund which invests in a variety of investment trusts.

The minimum lump sum investment in any of the four trusts is £500. Gartmore is also offering free investment counselling for Globe shareholders considering their offer.

Qualified financial advisers are available on the following Freephone telephone number: 0800 289 336.

## INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

BANKS	Nominal rate	Compounded		Max/min	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
		25%	40%				
Ordinary Dep A/c:	5.00	5.10	4.08	none/none	7 day	—	—
Fixed Term Deposits:							
Barclays	10.81	10.81	8.65	25,000-50,000	1 min	071 626 1867	8 min
				25,000-50,000	1 min	071 626 1867	8 min
Lloyds	10.38	10.38	8.30	2,500-10,000	1 min	Local Branch	—
Mutual	10.92	10.92	8.74	2,500-10,000	6 min	Local Branch	—
—	10.43	10.43	8.87	10,000-100,000	6 min	071 290 2805	10 min
—	10.50	10.50	8.27	10,000-100,000	6 min	071 290 2805	10 min
NatWest	10.38	10.38	8.30	10,000-24,000	1 min	071 728 1000	10 min

## HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

Bank of Scotland NMC	10.45	10.97	8.78	2,500	none	031 442 7777
Barclays	9.50	9.84	7.87	2,500	none	084 252 991
Primer a/c	6.00	6.20	4.98	No min	none	071 626 2543
Co-operative	6.00	6.20	4.98	1,000	none	071 626 2543
Ulster	6.00	6.20	4.98	1,000	none	071 626 2543
Gloucester	6.00	6.20	4.98	1,000	none	071 626 2543
Midland NICA	6.00	6.20	4.98	1,000	none	071 626 2543
Midland NICA	6.00	6.20	4.98	2,000	none	071 626 2543
NatWest	9.00	9.31	7.45	500	none	071 374 3374
Special Reserve	9.00	9.31	7.45	500	none	071 374 3374
Primer Bank of Scot	9.75	9.75	8.09	2,500	none	031 558 8555
TSB (England & Wales)	9.00	9.00	7.20	2,000	none	071 600 6000

## BUILDING SOCIETIES

Ordinary Share A/c:	6.15	6.15	4.82	1 min	none	—
Best buy - largest socs:						
Britannia	9.90	9.90	7.92	250 min	none	—
National & Prov	10.50	10.50	8.40	500 min	none	—
—	11.75	11.75	9.25	5,000 min	60 day	—
Alliance & Leic	11.75	11.75	9.40	10,000 min	90 day	—
Birmingham Mid	12.25	12.25	9.80	10,000 min	1 year	—
Best buy - all socs:						
Cheltenham	11.50	11.50	9.19	5,000 min	none	—
Guardian	12.75	12.75	9.79	3,000 min	20 day	—
—	12.25	12.25	9.79	3,000 min	60 day	—
Wetherspoon	12.10	12.10	9.70	10,000 min	90 day	—
Standard	12.70	12.70	10.15	5,000 min	60 days	—

## Cash/Cheque Accounts:

Halifax	8.75	8.75	3.00	1 min	Rates rise	—
Card Cash	6.00	6.00	5.52	500 min	with larger	balances
National	6.00	6.00	4.80	600 min	60 min	—

Compiled by *Cham de Vries* - *Montgomery* - call 011 404 5763 for further details

## NATIONAL SAVINGS

Ordinary A/c:	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041 549 4555
Investment A/c:	10.00	10.00	7.00	2-5,000	3 min	041 549 4555
Deposits:	10.75	10.75	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 min	041 549 4555
35th Issue Cert:	13.50	10.12	8.10	25-1,000	8 day	041 549 4555
Yeast Plant:	9.50	9.50	8.50	20-200/min	14 day	051 388 4800
Guaranteed Rent:	5.01	5.01	5.01	5-100 min	5 yrs	041 549 4555
Capital Bond:	13.00	9.75	7.80	100-100 max	5 yrs	041 549 4555

RPI (June 89-90)	+9.8%			Holiday rates	£ buys	—


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# Eurotunnel asks banks to dig deep

By RUPERT BRUCE

THE banks supporting Eurotunnel, developer of the Channel tunnel, are finalising another £2 billion loan to the project before signing a re-financing agreement in September.

After that, it will be the shareholders' turn to stump up £50 million in a rights issue planned for October.

Most of the 200 banks are expected to increase the size of their loans to Eurotunnel by the requested 40 per cent, although some of the smaller ones may bow out.

But persuading shareholders to take up the rights issue at the likely price of 400p will not be easy after the infighting and unexpected cost over-runs seen at Eurotunnel over the past year.

Some City analysts feel the present share price of about 483p is far too high, and consequently so is the proposed rights issue price.

Over the past year the shares have plunged from a peak of about £1.80. The rot was started by news of the cost over-run last July, but that was just the beginning.

A bitter battle followed between Eurotunnel and TransManche-Link, the consortium of builders, over the size of the over-run and who should foot the bill.

Last October, the dispute between the two went public when Eurotunnel said the tunnel would cost £7 billion and TransManche-Link £7.5 billion.

The prospectus in 1987 costs had been estimated at £4.87 billion.

Finally, in January, an agreement was reached in principle when TransManche-Link agreed to pay 30 per cent of any cost over-runs arising from actual digging of the tunnels.

The two agreed to differ



Begging bowl: Alastair Morton is returning with a £50m cash call in October

over a sum of more than £300 million relating to the stations and connecting electric lines. This will probably be settled by an international court of arbitration.

But then TransManche-Link refused to sign the agreement unless there were staff changes at Eurotunnel. At this point, the Bank of England stepped in to stop the bickering and prevent the project's collapse.

Eurotunnel's co-chairman, Alastair Morton, became deputy chairman and chief executive, and John Neerhout, executive vice-president of the American Bechtel Group, became project chief executive, with responsibility for day-to-day construction.

Come the rights issue in October, the project should be less risky than it is now. The banks should have signed facilities for Eurotunnel to borrow the £2 billion, and the

service tunnel running under the sea should have been completed.

Eurotunnel can be fairly sure that the two running tunnels the trains travel through, being dug on either side of the service tunnel, will not encounter unforeseen difficult ground. All tunneling work should be completed by the early autumn of 1991.

However, then Eurotunnel will have to fit out the tunnels and make sure they are running efficiently before the planned opening in June 1993.

This is an area in which both Eurotunnel and its builders have least expertise and where there will still be a degree of risk.

One insider said: "The shuttle wagons are going to be as big as anything anywhere in the world. It is going to be the busiest stretch of railway anywhere. And we are going to

have to have a more sophisticated transportation system than anywhere else in the world."

TransManche-Link has to sub-contract out the work of fitting-out the tunnel. Most of this has been done, with the engineers, Balfour Beatty and Spie Batignolles, installing the bulk of the electrics. The complex signalling and computerised control systems have been ordered.

But there are dozens of sub-contracts still to be arranged and many of these sub-contracts could over-run their original cost.

There is also a degree of scepticism among City analysts over Eurotunnel's traffic and revenue forecasts, which determine its profitability and dividend payments.

If Eurotunnel does have to charge cheaper fares than planned in order to fill the tunnel, obviously profits will

be lower. But Mr Morton personally believes that Eurotunnel's forecasts err on the side of pessimism.

As repaying the banks is Eurotunnel's first commitment, shareholders could find their 1998 maiden dividend — initially planned for 1995 — delayed even further. Another uncertainty is the absence of plans for a high-speed rail link between London and the Channel tunnel.

But Mr Morton has said that while no link can now be started until 1991, and this will take at least nine years to complete, it will have only a marginal effect on Eurotunnel's traffic and revenue prospects.

Jennie Younger, a transport analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, thinks that bearing in mind the risks the rights issue would not be worth taking at 400p.

Instead, she would prefer a deeply discounted price of around 240p, which Eurotunnel is actively considering as an alternative option if conditions on the British and French stock markets deteriorate throughout the summer.

She expects the share price to drift over the summer, although it may show a small rise if Eurotunnel completes its agreement with the banks in September, and in November when the service tunnel is complete.

Richard Hannah of UBS Phillips and Drew, the broker, is a long-time critic of Eurotunnel.

He said: "Why should anyone invest in Eurotunnel, given the risks, when you can get a much better return in an established equity?"

Mr Hannah thinks that Eurotunnel's price should be about 300p. He recommends the shares should be sold at any price above that.

## Xmark — the stock on the spot

By BARBARA ELLIS

THE drawbacks of dealing in American over-the-counter stocks through telephone operations in Europe have been brought home forcibly to a reader in Edinburgh.

In April 1989 he bought two lots of shares in Xmark from Indigo Investment of Marbella, Spain. He paid \$4 and \$5 per share in the belief that the company was hoping to become a software supplier to IBM.

But when he asked to sell the shares through Indigo last month, he was told this was not possible as Xmark was no longer on the market.

Thomas Devlin, the Canadian owner of Indigo, told Weekend Money that Xmark was a stock his firm had dealt in some time ago when he thought this was an up and coming company, but things had not worked out that way.

"It was a hot computer deal back in 1988-9 that just never got going," said Mr Devlin. "We can't find a marketmaker any more — we've been looking for a couple of months."

He said the reader's busi-

ness with his company had been initiated in a response to advertisements in the *Financial Times* and the *International Herald Tribune* in 1987-8.

"We are not advertising any longer. We've built up a client base we are happy with," he said. Indigo's main business was in futures and options and portfolio management. It had sold stocks such as Xmark to people who had asked for a recommendation, he added.

Indigo is not authorised to carry on investment business in Britain.

As the Securities and Investments Board's recent court actions against Vandersteen of Belgium established, it had been illegal for unauthorised firms to initiate investment business by telephoning British residents from abroad since April 1988.

Mr Devlin denied reports that Indigo had any connection with the Canadian, Peter Jeffreys, of failed Charter Life.

Checks with American brokers revealed that Xmark still appears in the "pink sheets" covering over-the-counter

stocks. But unusually there was no mention of any marketmaker and no record of any trades for the last 274 days.

Philip Haines, the founder, chairman and chief executive of Xmark based in Irvine, California, said the only real option for shareholders was to hang on in the hope that the company would revive.

Mr Haines said: "We are not advertising any longer. We've built up a client base we are happy with," he said. Indigo's main business was in futures and options and portfolio management. It had sold stocks such as Xmark to people who had asked for a recommendation, he added.

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# Beware fading memories of those little holiday 'extras'

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

HOLIDAYMAKERS who are planning to pay their hotel bills with credit cards have been given a warning to keep a record of all they spend.

Hotels can send supplementary bills to the credit card companies long after the stay is over and the cardholder has forgotten what he actually ate and drank.

A Weekend Money reader who stayed at an hotel in Edinburgh last month received a letter this week saying that it had debited his Barclaycard account for a further £9.

This was for items which it did not have on its records when he checked out of the hotel. It went on to say that if he disputed the extra bill he should contact the hotel.

He has disputed one of the items because he knows he never buys chocolate. Regarding the others, he is not sure — three weeks later — whether he had the drinks from the room's mini-bar or not.

At Barclaycard a spokesman said hotels are entitled to claim their money back if customers checked out before all the charges were known. To obtain this money hotels often put in another voucher.

People paying hotel bills by credit card should ask if the bill includes everything. If it does not, they should make a note of what they have had.

"By the time the second bill comes through they may have forgotten what they had. They should keep the receipt and voucher even after the next statement arrives, as extra charges could come through on the following statement."

At Save & Prosper, Ian Lindsey, banking director,



doubted whether the hotel should debit a credit card account in this way.

He said: "All the customer has to do is to write to the credit card company that the item was not authorised and request them to charge it back to the hotel. At the end of the day a customer is only liable for the amount on the voucher they sign.

"If there is a mistake on the bill they don't have the automatic right to make the charge. If it is put through it would be met by the credit card company. But if the customer complains it should be removed from their bill."

He continued: "If the customer has had the services they are legally liable to pay. It is common practice if a hotel has the card number to make a second charge if they find extra items. It is vital to hang

on to the credit card slips and to check against statements.

"While the hotel may not be technically authorised to make the charge, it may be the

• At the end of the day customers are only liable for the amount on the voucher that they sign

incurred during the stay.

At Barclaycard the spokesman said that holidaymakers who had not booked hotels in advance were often asked to hand over a credit card on arrival for the receptionist to take an imprint. The hotel was then protected if the holidaymaker left without paying.

"This usually works fine unless the customer decides to pay by some other method.

Then they must make sure that they get the voucher back.

"Some hotels get an

authorisation for the cost of

the room at the outset and that

could leave the cardholder

with much less cash available

on their card if they paid by

another method," he said.

Mr Lindsey said that some

hotel registration forms

are worded to give them authorisation to charge for any bills

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Another area where problems arise on holiday is hire cars, said Barclaycard. Many

firms will not let people hire

cars unless they agree to pay

he has signed the bill.

by credit or charge card.

"They need to know that they have some sort of security to get the car back and will either ask customers to sign a 'blank' voucher, or estimate the full cost of the hire and charge that at the outset. Then they will make an adjustment when the car is taken back and either make a refund through the card or an additional charge," said the spokesman.

People using the autoroutes in France can pay their tolls by credit card. Cards are wiped through automated terminals and no signature is required by the motorist. But there were few disputes because people remembered which route they had taken, said Mr Lindsey.

Diners Club warned holidaymakers this week never to let their cards out of sight. And it suggests that they should not hand their cards over to waiters in restaurants.

"Politely ask the waiter to bring the machine over to you or, failing this, ask to go with him while he processes your card purchase."

The reason for this is that it has been known for corrupt staff to run two or more slips across the card, reserving them for later when they can copy your signature.

"Not only this, but particularly in the Far East, there have been cases of fraudsters taking an impression and making a replica card."

Customers should always ensure that they never leave a space for anyone to change the total amount at a later date and that the total box has been filled in and that the amount is correct. This prevents restaurants from adding tips after he has signed the bill.

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\*Barclays Base Rate, Abstract of Banking Statistics, May 1990. \*\*FT-115. British Government Stock Index, three years reinvested. 11.2% to 31.12.90. Acuma Ltd incorporated in Delaware USA with limited liability. An appointed representative of Acuma Fund Managers Ltd. Reg in England and Wales No 237432. Reg and Principal Office: Acuma House, The Glancy, Egham, Surrey TW20 0LA. Member of LAUTRO, IMRC and the CFA.



## WEEKEND MONEY

## And the blind shall lead the blind

## COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

The more information an independent financial adviser has the better it is for his clients. But that does not appear to be how at least one regulator sees it.

A plan by Provident Life, the insurance company, to give independent advisers issues of a magazine supplement comparing the investment results of pension plans has been shelved after intervention by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro). The magazine detailed the different investment performance that could be achieved by pensions when the policyholder paid for his or her advice by a fee or by commission.

In many cases the survey shows that investors would be better off paying an up-front fee instead of allowing their broker to be paid a proportion of their premiums by the insurance company.

Lautro has decided that the issue of extracts, full surveys or supplements could break projection rules and should not go ahead. The decision means that brokers charged with the duty of

giving clients the best advice under the Financial Services Act are being denied all the information they need.

Weekend Money readers learned last month the advantages that can be gained from paying a fee instead of commission, especially for larger pension plans. The survey of 40 insurance companies showed the effect of commission on a £5,000 a year pension over 25 years could be a reduction ranging from £27,000 to £95,000. Typically, a £500 fee would be charged for setting up such a plan. The chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, David Walker, has decided that it is not the job of the regulators to produce investment statistics. He has called upon newspapers and magazines to do this. It is therefore unfortunate that when a magazine takes an initiative, its good work will not be read by all who need the information.

Advisers who are already



aware of the supplement can buy their own copy of *Money Management*. But those who are unaware of the supplement will be forced to remain in ignorance. The Financial Services Act was intended to protect investors from fraudsters and misinformation, not to keep information from its practitioners and consequently those investors.

Only fee-based advice can be totally independent as the broker will not be influenced by commission. If a fee is paid a professional broker loses nothing if the correct advice is for the client to do nothing or to invest in a product which pays no commission to the broker.

Since the maximum commission agreement ended last year the

level of commission paid to independent advisers and tied agents has risen considerably. Insurance companies may feel they have to increase the amount they pay brokers to attract more business. Truly independent brokers reject the inference that they can be bought and there has been a move towards fees in recent months.

There will, however, always be a place for commission-based advice. Some people would not be able to find the fee in addition to all other costs when they are taking out an endowment mortgage. Many recent paying professional fees for accountants and solicitors let alone investment guidance. Others would rather kid themselves they are getting

something for nothing. It would be nice to think that where fees benefit the consumer they will get to know about it.

## Churning over

Regulators are beginning to congratulate themselves that the Financial Services Act is reducing the churning of insurance policies. Churning is when a salesman suggests that an investor cancels an existing insurance policy and buys a new one, on which he earns commission.

Even where the existing policy is with a poor-performing house and the new one is with one of the best, the investor is likely to be worse off as a result. Only the salesman benefits.

Surrender values, while improving, still leave investors out of pocket and in some cases there may be no premiums returned at all if a policy is cashed

in during the first five years. Lenders and brokers who used to insist on a particular policy being taken out for the whole of an endowment loan when a special offer was made, now might only insist on the top portion of the loan being covered by their product.

Other lenders keen to improve their share of the mortgage market are offering interest-only loans. These allow the borrowers to choose whether they use an existing policy, a personal equity plan or an expected inheritance to pay off their mortgage.

The strong competition for mortgage business and the flat state of the housing market are the mostly likely reasons why the number of surrendered policies might be reducing. Whatever the reasons it is good news.

The first statistics which might back up the claims will be published in the autumn by the Association of British Insurers.

These give the number of policies surrendered early and the amount of money involved. The statistics will cover 1989 – the first full year of the Financial Services Act.

## The pensions promise that ends with company failure

By BARBARA ELLIS

SINCE the launch of personal pensions two years ago, company schemes have been seeking to hang on to members by promoting themselves as a safer alternative, based on final salaries instead of the unknown future performance of the stock market.

But reality can be very different, particularly if the scheme's parent company runs into difficulties, as recent experience at Rockwood has shown.

Under present law, pension scheme members can be kept in ignorance of their fund's investment dealings for more than a year after they occur.

Members also have very few rights if the employer goes into receivership or is declared bankrupt, though the new Social Security Act is to include provisions aimed at improving this position.

Rockwood, a freight and distribution company quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market sold two buildings to its pension fund in May this year.

Last month Weekend Money drew attention to the deal. But for press comment, Rockwood's 2,700 pension scheme members would not have learned of this purchase until the middle of next year, even though the amount of money involved was £4.8 million, against the fund's estimated total assets of £20 million. The Rockwood pension scheme has an April year-end and only issues investment information to members in its annual report.

At the time of the property deal, it seemed that Rockwood's pension scheme might find it awkward to comply with the revised rules, to be introduced next year, on investment by pension funds in their employers' businesses or buildings. These will limit "self-investment" to 5 per cent of assets about one quarter of the level Rockwood's scheme appeared to hold.

"In some of the worst cases they disappear," he said, "and we have great difficulty in getting promises honoured."

There is no question, however, of Mr Forrest or Mr Miller having disappeared.

Although he did not have

statistics, Mr Brand said the service was dealing with dozens of cases of missing trustees.

"More than we would

wish: some very unpleasant situations last until the whole receivership is resolved."

But last week the whole future of the pension scheme was placed in doubt when Rockwood went into receivership after the failure of a £5 million rescue attempt involving Lee Ming Tee, a businessman based in the Far East.

Receivers called into a company concentrate on trying to sell the business as a going concern, but take no part in deciding the future of the pension fund. This remains the responsibility of the trustees. In Rockwood's case, Mr Forrest and Roger Miller, the Rockwood company secretary.

Theoretically, as a company



Uncertain future: Tom Forrest, chairman of Rockwood.

pension fund is a separate legal entity it could continue operating without the company, but what normally happens is that the trustees wind up the scheme and sell off the assets to buy insurance company pensions for the members.

At the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service, which handles complaints and enquiries about pensions, Terry Brand, deputy chairman, said that while it is quite normal for directors to be trustees of a pension scheme, too often these people are "not available" when a company goes out of business.

"In some of the worst cases they disappear," he said, "and we have great difficulty in getting promises honoured."

There is no question, however, of Mr Forrest or Mr Miller having disappeared.

"Members can't get any money now," said Mr Brown. Pension fund money could only be used to provide retirement pensions. However, he noted that people over 50 could be entitled to take early retirement with a lump sum as well as their pension.

Members have no say in which insurance company is to provide their pensions after their scheme is wound up.

"Really you want to deal in bulk overall," said Mr Brown.

"It would add to the administrative chore if you contacted all your members."

He added that trustees either made up their own minds which company to choose or went on expert advice, "just as they do with their other investment decisions".

However, the trustees do have to inform members as soon as they start winding up

the pension scheme. Although there are no statutory limits on how soon a fund must be wound up, Mr Brown said he thought that trustees would usually try to complete the process quickly.

"Being a trustee for a scheme when an employer has gone bust is not pleasant," he said. If a company in receivership is sold, there is an automatic transfer of the pension fund or the members' pension rights.

If the buyer company has its own pension fund it can offer membership to members of the pension scheme, but is under no obligation to do this or to match their existing terms. But the buyer company cannot make joining its own scheme a condition of continuing employment.

Trustees of pension funds with a shortfall can make a claim to the employment department against the redundancy fund for up to one year's employee contributions, and up to an amount for employer's contributions calculated in line with the Social Security Pensions Act of 1975.

But insolvency specialists say it is far more common today for the pension schemes of failing companies to be absorbed and for disputes to arise over what should happen to the spare cash.

Company pensions, bought with the proceeds of scheme assets, fall short of the final salary link that may have lured members to join in the first place. There is, of course, no longer a salary for the pension to be linked to.

"It is a final salary in the sense that if the company goes bust I get a pension based on my salary today," said Mike Brown, of the National Association of Pension Funds, adding that an allowance would also be made for the number of years completed in the scheme plus the revaluation required by the Social Security Act for people whose service is terminated.

Many trust deeds also appoint the employer company itself as one, or perhaps the only, trustee, creating a built-in conflict of interest if the employer company goes bankrupt, the discretionary powers of the company clash with the demands of its creditors.

Receivers have taken such cases to court, but received conflicting decisions. In one the judgment was that the trustee could do what he liked under his discretionary power, but in another the court said the trustee would have to exercise his discretion so that the creditors received the surplus.

But the law is about to change. One of the most important provisions of the new Social Security Act is that in cases of insolvency an independent trustee must always be appointed when the employer company is the only serving trustee.

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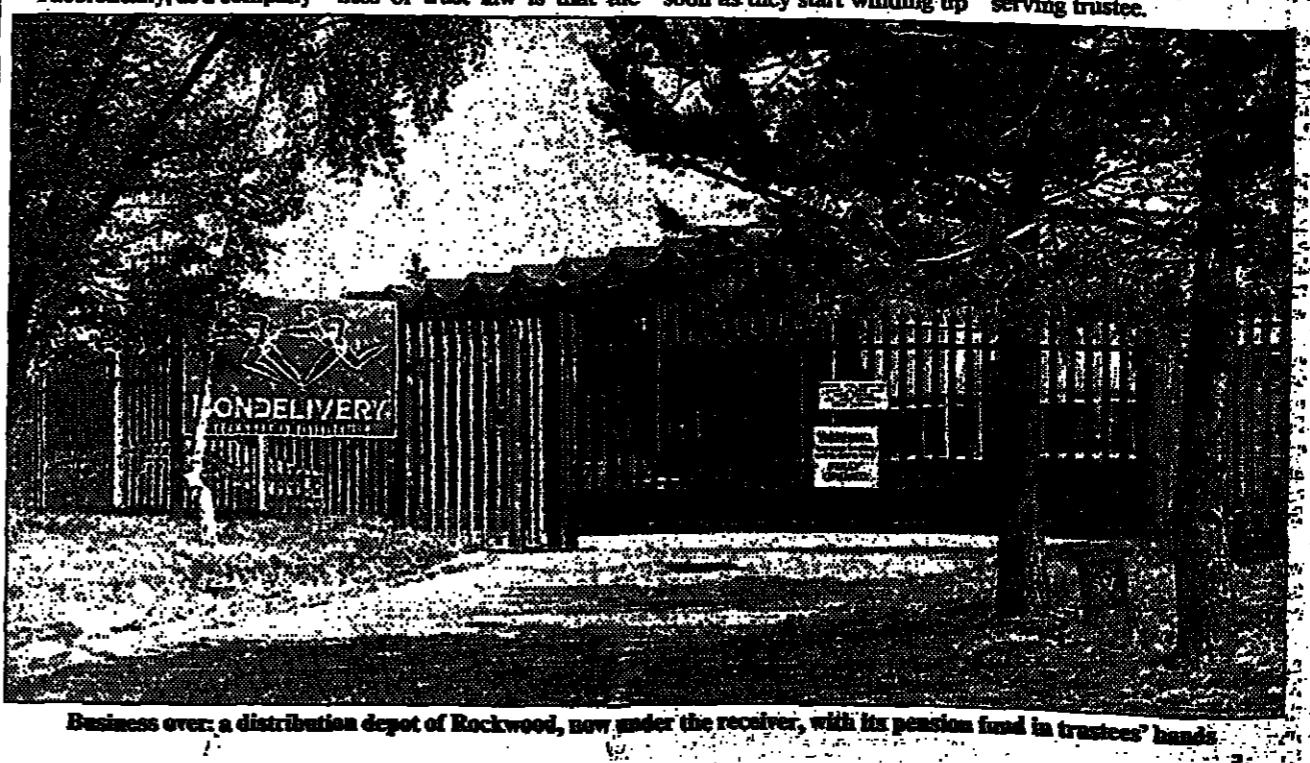
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Business over: a distribution depot of Rockwood, now under the receiver, with its pension fund in trustees' hands.

# The discreet charms of white collar crimes

By ANGELA MACKAY

## BUSINESS PROFILE

### Monty Raphael

MONTY Raphael, the doyen of that small part of the legal profession specialising in white collar crime, is a coy interviewee.

At first meeting, coy seems a misnomer considering he confessed immediately to being an avid reader of Henry Miller.

However, the qualifications started early with his stated preference for *Colossus of Maroussi* over *Tropic of Cancer* and I was advised to read a book, *Bitter Lemons*, by Miller's great friend, Lawrence Durrell, which would really put me in the picture.

Compact and sleek with collar-length grey hair and a matching close-cropped beard, Raphael, aged about 50, is almost rhapsodic about his love for the law of white collar crime.

He has a passion about the theory and is fascinated by its practice. He makes most of the appearances in the lower courts himself on behalf of his clients and once seen on his feet in court, he is the man many would call if the Internal Revenue discovered their blind trust in Liechtenstein.

For someone who likes to talk, Raphael had to be coaxed to speak to *The Times*.

Meetings were held at court, at the Howard Hotel, where Monty is known as a breakfast and luncheon, and there were several top-up conversations on the telephone.

He often said he could not understand why he was a worthy interviewee and raised an eyebrow when he heard his profile might follow that of Lord Alexander.

It is the flourishing of alleged white collar crime that has made Raphael's name and produced a fine income for his firm, Peters & Peters. Indeed, his client list covers many of those involved in high-profile City trials since Big Bang.

The biggest to date is that all-time blockbuster, the Guinness trial, where Peters & Peters represent Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker, accused along with Ernest Saunders, Gerald Ronson and Sir Jack Lyons who together face a total of 24 counts of alleged theft, fraud and breaches of the Companies Act, 1985. They deny all charges.

The Guinness saga is guaranteed to make well over £200,000 for Peters & Peters and the firms representing the two other defendants who are not legally aided, Lyons and Ronson, according to vague estimates by The Law Society.

Also on Raphael's books is Nicholas Wells, accused of breaches of the Companies Act in the Blue Arrow Affair, Robert Miller the chief of Dunsdale Securities, the investment house that collapsed last month owing at least £17 million, and the former finance director of the collapsed investment house Barlow Clowes. They deny all charges.

Raphael also successfully defended Ian Posgate, a former star underwriter on the Lloyd's of London Insurance market. He was cleared last year of accusations that he was part of a conspiracy to steal from Lloyd's syndicates.

"Peters & Peters would have to be the first or second port of call if you are well-known and want an authoritative assessment of your position or help in a hurry," according to a barrister at the criminal bar.

**'He has a passion about the theory and is fascinated by its practice. He makes most of the appearances in the lower courts himself on behalf of his clients and once seen on his feet in court, he is the man many would call if the Internal Revenue discovered their blind trust in Liechtenstein.'**

"The International Bar Association [Raphael is chairman of its Business Crime Committee] held two evening seminars about one month ago on the subject and more than 90 people showed up, including several senior members of the Bar."

Once Raphael embarks on his favourite topic, he is hard to budge. He becomes restive, excitable - within bounds -

enough and on the other hand if they say I am obsessive, I hate the idea of being called an obvious workaholic," Raphael explained.

Does he have a family? Yes. Does this mean a wife and children? Yes. What do they do? Most of the time they live with me. You are very jealous of your private life.

"No, it's just that they rarely recognise me. My wife, who

with that of foreigners: this *norbertism*, navel-gazing, is particularly evident when it comes to comparisons with the West Germans.

Congratulate a fruit grower in the Midi on his unmistakable prosperity (big new Citroën in the garage, chalet in the French Alps, safari holidays in West Africa) and he will quite likely quote you statistics showing how the income of Bavarian farmers has risen far more dramatically.

A successful sales executive I know gloomily jots down notes about the quality of the excellent French wines his West German competitors order for dinner while he must settle for a mere *appellation contrôlée*.

Small wonder, then, that French hearts swelled with the news that Bernard Tapie - probably the country's most dynamic, not to say flashy, entrepreneur and a leathery MP to boot - has just taken over Adidas, the renowned West German sports goods concern. And what joy to learn that M Tapie had snatched control from under the very nose of a big West Germany group.

"This goes to show that we can beat them on their own ground," crowed M Tapie, for whom *norbertism* and *norbertism* are definitely dirty words: "It comes at a time when France doubts its own strength."

As the owner of France's reigning soccer champions, Olympique Marseille, M Tapie clearly feels that landing Adidas puts him firmly on the international stage.

Who knows, he may even have plans to put together a French squad that can take the World Cup away from those seemingly unstoppable Germans next time round.

Right on cue, along comes a survey guaranteed to make the French feel even worse. According to a recent survey of international business executives, France is way down the list of preferences for locating company headquarters after 1992: far more popular, in ascending order of choice, were Holland, Britain and, cruellest cut of all, Belgium.

Thus, after a year in which purchasing power has risen almost four per cent and the franc has become a hardish currency, more than one in two people are adamant that their standard of living has actually fallen and another third reckon moodily that things can only get worse.

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As many an unkind crack here bears witness, the French view of their Belgian neighbours ranges from withering condescension to downright mockery. *Tirer en Belge* is a story that nobody but a Belgian could find funny. The very idea that Brussels might be infinitely preferable to Paris by

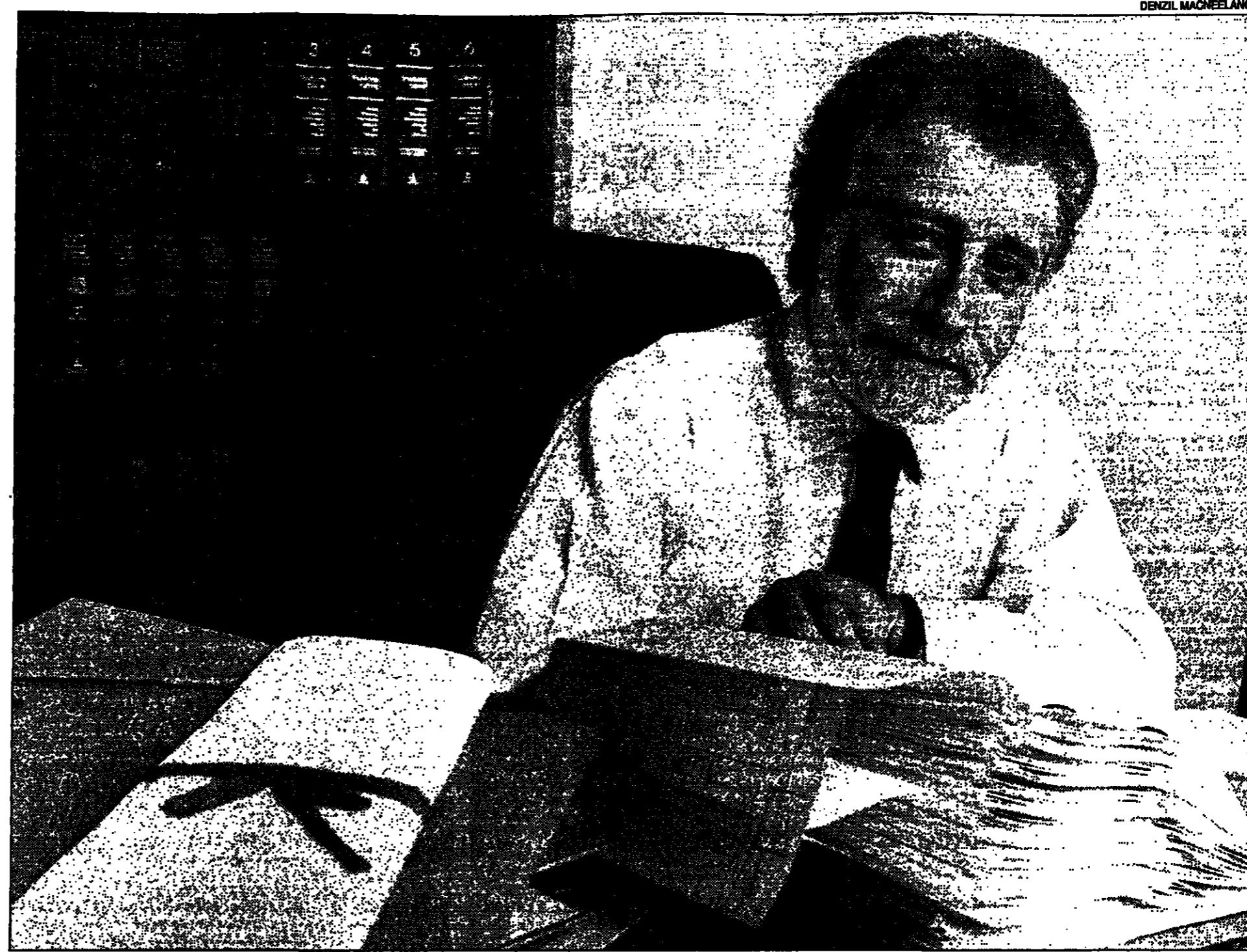
**CAPITAL CITY**

PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS



Tapie: pinched Adidas for France  
businessmen is clearly some kind of joke... isn't it?

The fact is that the French, seemingly born with confidence and swagger, worry endlessly about how their lot compares



Crime's a passion: Monty Raphael, said to have an obsession bordering on the voyeuristic not only about his own cases but with the direction of the law and its formulation.

and tends to stab his scrambled eggs to emphasize a point.

"Tell me when we are on the record and off the record, won't you," he asks.

But this is difficult when just about everything he says is iced with an arch, self-deprecating manner which begs for quotation. Another barrister who has acted for the prosecution on cases where Raphael has been for the defendant said he had the ability to look relaxed even when completely absorbed.

"They can only handle a maximum of 60 cases at one time and an arbitrary number like that does not take 'real life' into consideration."

"Interest in the instance of white collar crime and the development of the law is growing at a rate faster than even I expected.

"Not really. I am a pessimist. If someone says I am relaxed at work then it might mean I am not working hard

lectures at a college if you must know, makes sure the children have up-to-date photographs of me so they know who I am and recognise me as a source of funds."

Raphael works an average of 14 hours a day. Like Margaret Thatcher, he only needs about five hours sleep and does not partake of any physical exercise since he gave-up tennis several years ago.

Does he have any hobbies?

Not really, but he enjoys jazz and holidaying in Tuscany. Does he collect anything? Nothing except legal biographies. He reads copiously. For recreation, he picks up classics, thrillers - particularly Elmore Leonard - and European history. This is done mostly between midnight and 2am.

"I'm reading *Citizen* about the French Revolution and a biography of Coleridge. I have just finished *Middlemarch* and thinking about starting *See Under: Love* about the Holocaust from a child's point of view. I've been thinking for years about reading *Bonfire of the Vanities* but I haven't been able to bring myself to do it yet."

Born in the East End of London of Polish parents - his mother came to London just in time to see Queen Victoria's funeral entourage - Raphael spent a lot of his childhood in Petticoat Lane where his father sold second-hand clothes.

At 11 years, he decided he wanted to be a lawyer when he started reading about Lord Shawcross, the Nuremberg trial prosecutor, in the news-

papers. "He seemed a giantous and interesting man who impressed my adolescent intelligence," he reminisced.

Raphael briskly summed up his first 22 years.

"I went to Davenant Foundation School, an East London grammar school founded in 1666, was articled to Peters & Peters in 1958 and qualified in 1962.

"I think my favourite area of law was decided on the first day of my articles in the Old

Bailey where Sir Peter Rawlinson was defending a businessman charged with fraud."

Raphael does not believe he

was influenced by one or two particular role models nor did his parents have a marked influence on his choice of career.

"My parents' experience was totally outside my ambition. My father, who was the youngest of eleven children, was a shoemaker in a factory before becoming a second-hand clothes dealer.

My brother, my only sibling, was ten years older and a very different person."

"I am not politically active

apart from having an interest in who governs me."

What party can lay claim to his allegiance? "That is between me and the ballot box."

And what does Raphael, an Eastern European by heritage, think about the enormous change engulfing that region?

"There will be huge growth in white collar crime once the dust from all the political corruption has settled."

## Keeping up with the Schmidts

**CAPITAL CITY**

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